St. Anne's-Belfield School

STINCHFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL & EXPERIENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD - VIV SHIELDS '20



The Stinchfield Scholarship gave me the opportunity to further explore my passion in an academic setting. Using the scholarship money, I was able to attend Environmental Studies Summer Youth Institute (ESSYI) at Hobart and William Smith. The program consisted of 19 classes in the span of two weeks. The most beneficial classes for me were environmental justice and ethics, climate change law, and energy policy and sustainability. I learned that environmental law and policy is the most efficient and important way to make the necessary changes to reduce our negative impact on climate change. Although the majority of our time was spent in the classroom, we also focused on the importance of field studies. For example, we used the boat that Hobart and William Smith uses for marine biology to learn about aquatic biology and take water samples from Seneca Lake.

This opportunity gave me helpful insight for what I want to learn in the future, and most importantly, how I can make a difference. I brought back knowledge and ideas for the Upper School's Environmental Club and my Youth Environmental Advocacy Committee. I co-created this committee to advocate environmental concerns to the youth of our community. There are multiple schools, nonprofits, and organizations involved in promoting my committee. After the experience the Stinchfield Scholarship provided, I have been working on incorporating the skills I gained to improve my community. I am so grateful that the Stinchfield Scholarship gave me the chance to learn more about what I don't have the opportunity to learn in my regular school courses. Receiving this scholarship has taught me a lot about what I would like to learn in the future, as well as what kind of learning environment I work best in.