

My name is Rihanna Candy Bwata. I am an upcoming junior, and I was selected as one of the high school students that had the opportunity to attend the 28th AACGE Western Section Conference on Crystal Growth and Epitaxy. My experience was remarkable and unforgettable. Everything was memorable—the conferences, the activities, and the comfort of our lodging. During the conferences, my group and I encountered world-renowned scientists and learned about their current research in crystallization. We had the opportunity to listen to fascinating, in-depth presentations on the researchers' work. We also received the chance to talk one-on-one with the scientists if we had any questions. As high school students, we were not expected to understand everything, but it was nice to hear about the rising innovations that the scientific world has underway. After the conferences, we enjoyed the resort and participated in multiple fun activities, such as playing tennis at the tennis courts and taking hikes. We also took part in amusing activities in the water, such as taking a swim, row boating, standing paddle boarding, and many more. At night, we went stargazing over the lake, which was more than captivating. Finally, we were well received, with comfortable accommodations and a delicious variety of food. I am truly grateful for such an opportunity and will never forget this one-of-a-kind experience.

Rihanna Candy Bwata