



Alumni Profile for Sreya Atluri, Nysmith Class of 2011

I loved every part of my Nysmith experience! I was definitely involved in a lot of leadership and service activities at Nysmith, as well as STEM! I really enjoyed serving as the National Junior Honor Society President and the Nysmith Gazette Editor-in-Chief, as well as my involvement with the SCA! I also did MathCounts, Math Olympiad, Craft Club, Musical Theatre, and various science and math clubs over the years! I also enjoy dancing Kathak (a traditional Indian dance) as well as singing, both of which I have been involved in for 12 years.

After Nysmith, I had the privilege to attend Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and graduated in 2015! In high school, I was able to explore my interest in STEM by serving as a Fairfax County Coordinator for the USA Science and Engineering Festival, an X-STEM Coordinator, and a Research Intern at the National Institutes of Health. I've also pursued my passion for leadership through serving as Secretary-General of Model United Nations, Co-President of Bioengineering Projects for the Future, Co-Founder and Co-President of X-STEM, Tomorrow's Women in Science and Technology, and BigSibs Mentoring Program Senior Coordinator. I actively sought to make an impact in the community through my role as an elected representative of my school on the Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, my work as a representative on the FCPS Student Human Rights Commission, and my presentations at STEM and leadership conferences.

In high school, I took Summer Chemistry after my freshman year so I could take AP Biology and AP Chemistry as a sophomore. I then spent two summers as a Research Intern at the National Institutes of Health, where I initiated a mathematical and computational modeling research project in the lab to investigate the mental fatigue phenomenon. I presented in 2014 & 2013 NIH Summer Poster Day and had my work recognized at the White House Science Fair as well as various other science fairs, and a research paper is currently in the process of being published. I also served as the Director of Student Services Student Data Analyst for a short period of time during my sophomore year, where I was responsible for statistical analysis of job survey data related to athletics and activities, and I presented effective research presentations to Directors of Student Activities at district meetings. The summer after my freshman year of college, I interned at the Good Work Network in New Orleans through the Robertson

Program! The mission of Good Work Network is to help minority- and women-owned businesses start, grow and succeed. It envisions a community where the economy is diverse and inclusive and where all dedicated and competent entrepreneurs have access to the resources they need to succeed. As an intern, I interacted with clients, consulted with Good Work staff, developed effective training material and techniques, developed feasibility analyses of various enterprise options, developed business plans (including financing plan) for viable options, and assisted with developing funding requests for grants.

I've always been drawn to the idea of making a difference in the community, and currently serve as the CEO and Founder of Creating Awareness in Research and Education (CARE) and a former Executive Director for Growth and Inspiration through Volunteering and Education (GIVE), both non-profit organizations striving to address educational disparities across varying socioeconomic dimensions.

In college, as a Robertson Scholar at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill/ Duke University, I'm double majoring in B.S. Business Administration and Economics, with a minor in Entrepreneurship. I'm interested in sustainable community development within the context of interactions between government, businesses, and society and promoting economic opportunities by leveraging education to build stronger, more resilient communities. I've pursued my interests on campus as the Chair of Student Programming & Outreach for the Student Government Cabinet, Director of the Robertson Community Coordinators, and involved in numerous business school organizations, including as Vice-President of Communications on the Operations Club Executive Team and Director of Internal Development on the International Business Executive Board. I'm fortunate to serve as Treasurer on the International Relations Association Executive Board and Director of Finance & Sponsorships on the American Mock World Health Organization Executive Board. I'm also involved with community service and leadership and STEM conferences.

Last summer, I interned at the Good Work Network and was a Teaching Assistant for the TOMODACHI Toshiba Science & Technology Leadership Academy, and continued expanding CARE's operations and impact.

I've been incredibly fortunate to be recognized through the years, including having the honor of meeting President Obama and other distinguished officials as a 2015 White House Science Fair Honored Guest and 2015 Women and Girls in STEM Discussion Student Roundtable at White House Science Fair! I'm also incredibly proud to be a 2015 Coca-Cola Scholar and in the Carson Scholars Hall of Fame Top 20 under 30. My interests in finance and STEM were highlighted by meeting and speaking with Jacob J. Lew, Secretary of the Treasury, Rosie Rios, Treasurer of the United States, Megan Smith, Chief Technology Officer of the United States, Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President, and a host of other dynamic individuals at the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Women in Finance and Technology Symposium, as well as being recognized as a 2014 National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing VA/DC Affiliate Winner and a 2015, 2014, and 2013 National

Runner-Up. I was excited to be chosen as a 2016 TOMODACHI Toshiba Science & Technology Leadership Academy Teaching Assistant & 2014 Winner, as well as a 2015 US Presidential Scholars Program Semifinalist. I'm very honored to be recognized as a 2015 Apple Scholar, to have received a News Channel 8 "Pay It Forward" Feature for outstanding service to community, be part of the 10th Congressional District Young Women Leadership Program, and be recognized as a 2014 Nordstrom Scholarship Program Awardee. Having my commitment to community service recognized as a 2015 Recognized Carson Scholar and 2014 Scholar, as well as a 2015 Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student and District Nominee, 2015 William E. Beals Scholarship Awardee, 2015 Burger King Scholar, 2015 Zonta Young Woman in STEM Award, 2015 Thiel Foundation Summit Invitee, and 2015 AXA Achievement Community Scholarship Program Achiever has been an absolutely phenomenal and rewarding experience. I'm also honored to have received "Premio de Oro" (Gold Medal) & "Premio de Plata" (Silver Medals) in the National Spanish Exams, as well as be a 2012 Regional ExploraVision Winner (1 of 6 teams in US, in addition to my work being highlighted in as an "Inspiring Woman Leader Spotlight" Feature by Women LEAD for community and STEM outreach. Receiving an American Mathematics Competitions Certificate of Achievement and Certificate of Distinction, and being invited to represent USA on All-American Model United Nations Team in China for WEMUN Expo, in addition to being selected as a Global Tech Leader at Global Tech Women, representing the US, has been very inspiring. I'm also very honored to be named a 2015 & 2014 National AP Scholar, 2015, 2014, & 2013 AP Scholar with Distinction, 2015 & 2014 Volunteer Fairfax Benchmark Youth, 2014 West Point Leadership & Ethics Conference, and invited to the 2016 Clinton Global Initiative University, as well as being invited to serve as a Campus Representative. I've been named to the Fall 2015 Dean's List and the Spring 2016 Dean's List (both semesters I've been in college).

Nysmith has had such a significant and long-lasting impact on my life, and has left an indelible impression that resonates with me to this very day. I still remember the first day I walked into Nysmith, and the emotions and memories flow over me as I think over not only my 9 years physically with the community, but the over 14 years that I've had the privilege and fortunate of being part of the Nysmith family – because it is truly a family and a community. The passion that Nysmith community shares to excel and give back to the community, the dedication demonstrated, the amazing relationships formed, and the desire for change so richly characterizes a place that has become a second home.

Nysmith has given me the opportunity to grow and learn, not only with regards with academics, but also in terms of character development and becoming a human being. While the academics at Nysmith propelled me to embark on a lifelong journey of learning and gave me the opportunity to attend Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (Class of 2015) and currently explore The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University as a Robertson Scholar, I would say that the development of my persona, as well being able to invest in the values and goals that meant most to me is a shining aspect of Nysmith. Ultimately, the relationships that you form and the people that you meet are among the most impactful and meaningful experiences that you can have, and this is something that Nysmith instilled in me.

Values such as integrity, communication, relationships, and people were reinforced throughout my Nysmith experience, and I could not be more thankful for the constant support, encouragement, advice, and sense of warmth, which would not be possible without all of the time, energy, and efforts of the administration, staff, teachers, mentors, students, and supporters! Thank you all so much!

When asked what advice I would give a current Nysmith student, it would be to find your passion and really explore it – commit to it and allow yourself to become fully invested. Appreciate and cherish your own individuality - all of you are incredibly special, talented individuals, and I know that if you set your heart to a task, you will achieve beyond anyone's imagination. Cherish that individuality that so uniquely characterizes you, and you will shine. Make sure that you love what you're doing, and keep this drive and desire to give back, create change, and have an impact burning bright, because it will continue to motivate and encourage you, and give you the power to do things you would have thought otherwise impossible.

Favorites:

Field Trip: Numerous trips to D.C.! Also the 4th grade trip to Gettysburg and Antietam, which I got to relive again as a “chaperone” with my sister, Sahithi!

School Play: You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown!

Science Fair Project: “More Sun, More Power” (6th grade)

Place to Hang out at Nysmith: Silver Pod! Really anywhere – the entire school feels like home!

Book that you had to read for one of your classes: Pride and Prejudice (one of my favorites to this day!)

Classroom story involving one of your teachers: I genuinely cannot choose just one story, but I do think that the sense of family that resonates within me every time I walk into Nysmith, and how I still go back to visit everyone at Nysmith demonstrates my true love and passion for the school and community.

After school Club: I can't just choose one! I loved the National Junior Honor Society, the Nysmith Gazette Newspaper, the Student Council Association, MathCounts, Math Olympiad, Craft Club, various science and math clubs over the years, and so many more!

Nysmith Memory: Graduation is one of my most emotionally poignant memories – I had attended Nysmith since Kindergarten, so I was graduating with friends that had become family over the nine years we had known each other. It was an amazing experience in that I was so excited for everyone to go to high school and continue to do absolutely phenomenal things, but I also knew that I would miss each and everyone so

so much, but that we would stay in touch, with each other, and with everyone at Nysmith!

Yes or No (For those who were at Nysmith in the 2nd grade) – Do you still know all the words to the 50 states song? What state were you?

Yes I do! Oklahoma!

