

Oak Crest Institute of Science: A Launchpad to the Future

By Marc Baum, Oak Crest Institute of Science



Previously I promised to introduce you to some of our local students who have interned at Oak Crest. The first is Gabrielle Magat, a

Monrovia local who was in high school in 2018 when she interned at Oak Crest. Oak Crest was her first exposure to a laboratory environment, and in her words, “My Oak Crest experience showed me how much I enjoyed talking about science and asking questions about almost everything. My exposure to the lab setting through this internship helped immensely going into UCLA.” Gabrielle



Karina Lizama / Photo by Paul Webster



Arianna Swindle / Photo by Paul Webster



Gabrielle Magat / Photo by Caleb James Velasquez

is currently in her 4th year at UCLA, majoring in neuroscience and planning a career in medicine and research.

Another local student working her way through the education system is Karina Lizama, who first came to Oak Crest in 2019 as a City of Monrovia YES Intern. She worked with us on the Summer Junior Researcher Academy for 7th to 9th grade students. Karina returned to work as an intern in the labs in 2021, and we are working to find a way to bring her back again. Karina plans on transferring from Citrus College to Cal State Long Beach to study Biomedical Engineering. Karina says that “Oak Crest is really great and helpful. The scientists let us work hands-on with them.”

The third local student I want to introduce is Arianna Swindle, who is a Biotechnology Major at Citrus College. Says Arianna, “When I came to Oak Crest, I didn’t know electron microscopes existed, and now I am operating one.” Arianna is still working part-time at Oak Crest and plans on transferring to UCLA to study Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology. She hopes to eventually enroll in a PhD program to study human reproduction. Arianna says, “Before I came to Oak Crest, I didn’t think I was capable of working for a PhD.”

We wish all of our students successful careers in their chosen fields. For more information about our student programs, check out our website www.oak-crest.org/.



Oak Crest Institute of Science (Oak Crest) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to teach and conduct cutting-edge science research. The institute provides an experience-giving role in education, where students work on authentic, funded research projects and develop a sense of belonging to the STEM community.

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