

My name is Jawara Li and I'm currently a senior at Abraham Lincoln high school. I plan to attend UC Irvine next semester for environmental engineering. Over the summer of 2017, I had a chance to intern at a program called the Architectural Foundation of San Francisco. I had applied for the internship because I had a genuine interest for architecture at the time and wanted some exposure into the field. I started off learning computer programs that architects use on a daily basis. A major topic that was really emphasized throughout the internship was sustainability. They had shown me methods and eco-friendly materials that architects use while designing buildings in order to try and make it as sustainable as possible. I was really interested and inspired by the environmental aspect that they had focused on, and as a result, realized that I wanted to help make a positive impact on the world. However, I wanted to do more than just design sustainable architecture. I wanted to innovate new technology that would help improve the world through environmental engineering. My experience taught me a lot and has given me insight on what it's like to be an architect, but the most important takeaway I received from this was finding what I am really passionate about and the career path I'd like to pursue in the future. I am also currently an intern for a non-profit organization called Rare Genomics Institute. Rare Genomics is an organization that is formed by volunteer researchers, and their goal is to help those with rare diseases that others would usually ignore because of the scarcity of their disorder. My task at Rare Genomics is to connect patients with researchers and to help them understand more about their disease. I love what I do at Rare Genomics because I know that my work helps others that are in need. I also occasionally tutor my fellow peers at school by helping students that require extra help in math subjects. I had initially started volunteering for the YMCA peer tutoring program at Abraham Lincoln high school in my junior year and have done it ever since. I usually tutor 3-4 times a week during lunch or afterschool. I enjoy tutoring because I get the opportunity to help others and watch them grow academically throughout the year.