

## Synihia Campbell, graduate Paxon School for Advanced Studies



My plans are to one day become a pediatrician. As a 2021 summer internship program award recipient, I was afforded an opportunity to expand my knowledge in a myriad of areas by shadowing various doctors from all over Jacksonville.

I began by shadowing Dr. Akilah Pope, a pediatrician who works at the Florida Department of Health. While there, I reviewed medical books and other material so that I could research different conditions patients had to better understand presenting signs, symptoms and illnesses. I also interacted with patients asking them basic health history questions, also known as the Subjective questions in medical S.O.A.P notes. I used a stethoscope to listen to patients' hearts, lungs and

stomachs. Being with Dr. Pope allowed me to get a basic understanding of a pediatrician's daily routine.

Next, I worked with The Lees at the Schell-Suite Center Clinic. While there I had multiple tasks, the most memorable being talking to different people and adding to the clinic's referral list. While at the clinic, I gained insights and tips from fellow colleagues on college courses and college in general. One of the tasks, I had was calling specialists' offices and noting which types of insurance they accept, in attempt to minimize referral confusion when it came to filing insurance. After my rotation with the Lees' ended, I worked with Valecia Dunbar, Ph.D., CEO of the Center for Confidence. While here, I worked on projects that allowed me build portable skills that will last a lifetime.

My internship experience ended with me shadowing Dr. Johnique Bennett, a family practitioner. I shadowed Dr. Bennett during her visits and talked with her about different common medical conditions and the dangers of them becoming "normalized". We talked about the dangers of high blood pressure and diabetes, its effects on the body and how since they're seen as common conditions patients forget how harmful they are.

By me being an aspiring medical professional, I was able to obtain my Basic Life Support (BLS) certification (facilitated by Eunice Mathis, CEO of the Training Academy). I was also afforded an opportunity to attend a virtual learning experience, hosted by the First Coast Black Nurses Association; an experience that broadened my understanding of medical careers.

Being selected as an AnnieRuth Foundation's 2021 Summer Internship Award Recipient has benefited me a lot. I am very thankful to have been able to be a part of this amazing program.