



Ashleigh Buchanan

I am a proud 2022 award recipient of the AnnieRuth Foundation who currently aspires to be a psychiatrist. Because of this I was placed at a few different places being Baptist Hospital with Mr. McBride, Pareto Clinic with Dr. Lee and, St. Vincent's clinic located on St. Pius with Dr. McCloud.

During the internship I experienced things that set me apart from many students my age. While at Baptist hospital I watched a live surgery. This experience let me get a clear understanding on how things in a operating room work. I seen firsthand how careful the operators are and how much they have to multitask to make certain that everything goes as smoothly as possible. I seen the thrills of being at a hospital and I observed how much work each and everyone on the team has to put in to ensure that the patients are comfortable and don't feel ignored. Despite the nurse practitioners and doctors running around and checking on multiple patients at one time they always maintained their composure with each of their patients which inspired me to try and be more like them. While at Pareto clinic Dr. Lee's office I learned the importance of the people who are behind the scenes. I learned that while at the office you have the doctor and the nurse practitioner, but you also have the people who set up all of the appointments that keep the clinic running. I was one of these people while at Dr. Lee's office, I spoke with patients over the phone and set up appointments for the upcoming days. And along with this, I interacted with patients face to face while I went in the rooms with Dr. Lee to examine the patients. While with Dr. McCloud I Moreso watched how she dealt with patients virtually. She did quite a few telemedicine calls with patients dealing with totally different things than the prior two places that I had been. And being at this clinic has made me start to pay closer attention to the environment that I am in because although all three of these places aren't that far away from each other, they all had a totally different demographic of people entering and exiting the clinics.

The AnnieRuth Foundation internship isn't instrumental for those students that aren't motivated and don't really want to put the work in to succeed. However, if you want to separate yourself from the rest of your class, and you want to have experiences that help you decide whether or not you want to continue with your career path before you get into college, the internship experience will prove to be very helpful.