

SUMMERWORKS SUCCESS: KYLE

City of Portland - Bureau of Environmental Services: Lab Assistant



"Overall, the lab experience that I'm getting this summer is definitely going to help me have an easier time settling into a future career."

Before SummerWorks, I was a chemistry lab facilitator at OMSI. Through my paid work experience at the City of Portland - Bureau of Environmental Services, I'm working in a real lab! I'm thrilled to be doing hands-on work that will actually help people.

I want to work with and for the environment in any way possible, but getting into field operations felt limited because of my age. I'm also interested in engineering, so when I found out my two passions could be combined into one job, environmental engineering, I looked into it.

I learned about SummerWorks through school and thought "Okay, this is just an program to get kids jobs during the summer." But when I did more research, I saw the program more as a steppingstone that gets young people into the careers they want.

Right now, I'm getting real-world lab experience and learning about all the moving parts like quality



assurance, documentation, lab organization, field sampling, and site inspection. These new skills will really help me prepare for future work. My SummerWorks experience is also helping me make connections with others already in the field. The ability to collaborate with others in a scientific way has been incredibly valuable.

I'm really proud of myself for being useful at the lab. Initially, I was worried about getting in the way, or being a nuisance, but then I had an experience that helped me see I was making a real impact. We had a ton of test samples that had to be processed that day and only one processor. So, I had to read complex sample labels to help with organizing. We got it all done in 4 hours. I was very proud of myself.



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