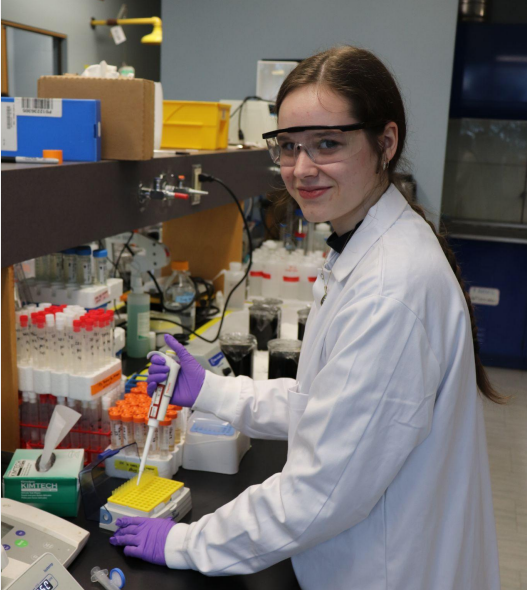


École HJ Cody student participates in notable U of A science internship



École HJ Cody High School student, Amy Kingston, is more confident that her future is in the world of science... thanks to an incredible experience over the summer. Amy was one of 43 high school students accepted to participate in the WISEST - [Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology](#) - summer program, a 6-week paid research internship for female and gender diverse high school students at the University of Alberta. Students apply for the opportunity, submitting answers to a number of questions along with a 750 word essay. After that they complete a virtual interview before organizers select participants.

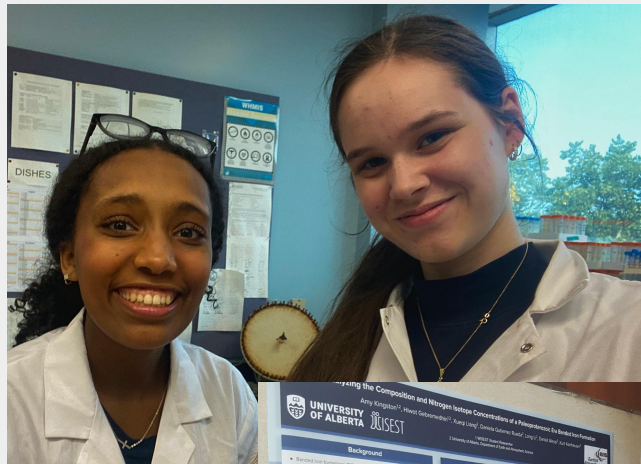
"I wanted to attend WISEST to get hands-on experience in a lab and help me decide what to do for post-secondary," says Amy. "I was thrilled to be accepted. WISEST has impacted my perception of the future. I have always been interested in

pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), but the idea of university and careers in STEM has always felt very abstract to me until this program."

"I got to spend six weeks living like a university student and doing science. I got one-on-one mentor sessions with many professors and Ph.D. students to learn about their educational and professional journeys. Now I can confidently say that I want to pursue a bachelor's degree in science, and this program has influenced me to consider grad school as well," says Amy.

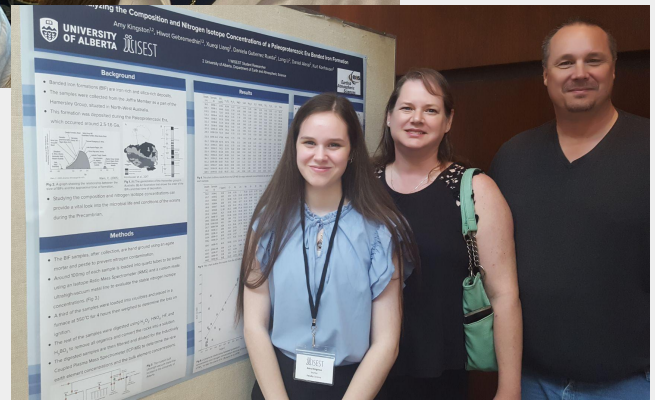
During the summer, Amy was placed in the geo-biology lab in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the U of A. She worked in wet labs executing a variety of experiments. For instance, she and her lab partner did kinetic experiments on charcoal collected from forest fires, compositional analysis of rocks gathered in Australia, research about how bacteria adhere to materials, and more.

"My favorite part was probably the community that was built, especially amongst the residence students and my friendship with my lab partner. Everyone was super nice and open to chat and share their research. We still talk to each other now," says Amy.



Amy Kingston (above right) and her lab partner, Hiwot Gebremedhin

Amy presenting her research to her parents (right)



École H.J. Cody teacher, Narsh Ramrattan, says he was excited for Amy to participate. "WISEST is an excellent way for students to participate in active, pertinent, scientific inquiry using some of the most modern equipment and techniques available," says Ramrattan. "In particular WISEST does an excellent job of encouraging more female participation in STEM programmes, disciplines in which females are often underrepresented."

"Because of Amy's high academic standing and her desire to learn more than just curricular content, Amy was an excellent candidate to take advantage of this opportunity," says Ramrattan.

"We are proud of Amy and all of her hard work that qualified her for this opportunity, and her hard work at U of A," says Alex Lambert, Principal, École H.J. Cody School. "It's amazing to see her excitement for her future, and make career connections that are meaningful. We can see great things in Amy's future and we are so pleased for her!"

Powerful #CESDCareerConnections made during summer

It was a busy summer for 221 Chinook's Edge students, who took the opportunity to participate in work experience employment placements and internships. From placements in engineering and agriculture to health care and at a bakery, these opportunities were powerful for students exploring career possibilities.

Scroll back through the Chinook's Edge Facebook page to read more about each of these students, and how their summer employment has positively impacted them.

