

Work experience options for high school students

High School Cooperative (Co-Op) Program

For high school students looking to get a head start on their career and earn money in the process, the High School Co-op Program could be just the thing. The program combines academic studies with on-the-job training in a variety of technical and administrative career fields. Students can work full-time during the summer and continue part-time during the academic year.

Students are selected based on aptitudes and interests, grade point average, and number of credits toward graduation.

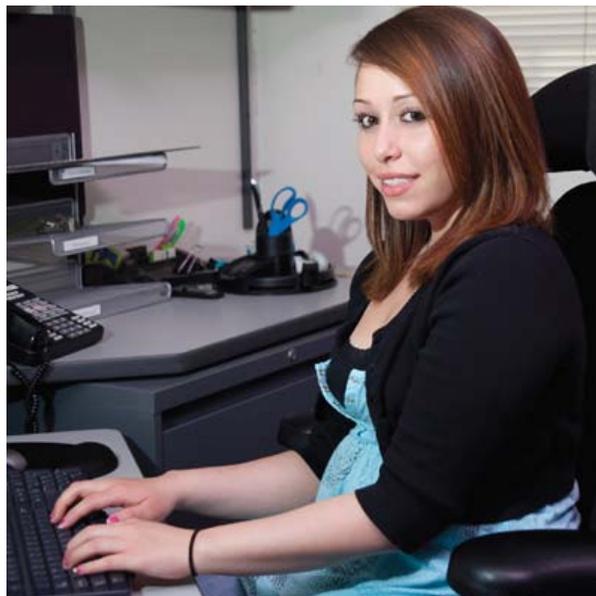
Here's what some current and former high school co-op students said about their experience at the Lab: "This is my first time working at the Lab and, so far, it has been very interesting and fun," said Los Alamos High School senior Adam Izraelevitz, who works in Statistical Sciences this summer. He recently received a \$4,000-per-year, four-year gold scholarship from the Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund (LAESF).

Valerie Duran was a senior at Pojoaque Valley High School when she joined the Lab through its high-school co-op program. She plans to continue working in the Nuclear Nonproliferation group as an undergraduate student majoring in engineering at the University of New Mexico, Los Alamos. "I feel very privileged to work here because I know the experience and knowledge that comes with this job," said Duran.

Eric Dai, who recently received a \$2,500-per-year, four-year silver scholarship from LAESF, joined the Lab last November. The LAHS senior has been working part-time in the Theoretical Division to develop software tools for simulation data. "I really like my work," he said.

An undergraduate student at UNM, Los Alamos, Gabriella "Gabby" Garcia came to the Lab as a high school co-op student from Española Valley High School. "I enjoy working here very much and plan to stay a few more years," she said. Garcia works in the Waste Disposition Project Division Office, where she has just finished helping office staff complete an audit related to shipments of remote-handled transuranic drums from Los Alamos to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad. "Gabby's a very valuable asset to us," said her supervisor, Melissa Porter.

—Tatjana K. Rosev



Gabby Garcia began her career at the Lab as a high school coop student and plans to stay here for several more years. Photo by Sandra Valdez