

Forest Hills junior attends program at St. John's College

By Kelly Urban

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SIDMAN – Kaitlyn Josephson had the summer of a lifetime.

The junior at Forest Hills High School was the first recipient of the Resick Broad Horizons Scholarship, which was recently established at the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies by 1999 Forest Hills graduate Jennier Resick Williams, allowing Josephson to attend a college summer program.

The 16-year-old chose to attend a two-part program at St. John's College, spending one week on the college's campus in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and another week at its Annapolis, Maryland, campus.

"It was an unbelievable, inspirational experience," the Salix resident said. "It gave me insight into college life, like living in a dorm and living away from home. I would never have had this kind of opportunity without the Resick scholarship, and it really changed how I view the world now."

Josephson applied for the \$2,500 scholarship, which is open to freshmen and sophomore students at Forest Hills High School, by writing an essay on why she felt she deserved it and spoke about what attracted her to St. John's College.

"St. John's is a liberal arts college and offers a unique learning experience and all classes are a seminar so that's what drove me to choose that college," she said.

So at the end of June, Josephson boarded a plane and made the trip to Santa Fe by herself to begin her week of study.

"There were 34 kids with me and they were from all over the world," she said. "My roommate was from Shanghai."

Then in mid-July, Josephson traveled to Annapolis.

At both campuses, she took courses that centered around liberal arts like music and classic literature



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Forest Hills junior Kaitlyn Josephson talks about her summer studies at St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Annapolis, Maryland.

and also took part in a variety of labs.

“It was a lot of fun and I wasn’t homesick at all,” Josephson said. “It was good to get away and now I know I can get out and do this by myself.”

But it wasn’t all classroom work. Students also had the opportunity to explore the two cities like visiting the monuments and museums in Washington, D.C., and doing nature excursions in Santa Fe.

“Santa Fe is just so charming and gorgeous, it’ll take a lot to top that,” she said.

Once Josephson finished her two weeks of study, she submitted a write-up along with photos from her trip to the Community Foundation and Resick Williams.

Resick Williams said the goal of creating the scholarship was to give Forest Hills students a chance to enhance their personal growth through travel and also inspire them to find programs and opportunities that interest them.

“I was very active in school and my activities took me to Baltimore, Detroit, New York, and Washington, D.C., and a senior Spanish trip to Mexico was the first time I left the country,” she said. “All these experiences made a meaningful impact on my education and career path. They inspired curiosity in an urban lifestyle and caused me to seek and learn more through travel experiences.”

Resick Williams added that she’s happy Josephson had the chance to pursue the scholarship opportunity and is looking forward to seeing where it takes her and other recipients in the future.

Josephson said she would encourage other Forest Hills students to apply for the scholarship because it will change how they look at things.

“Go for it and don’t even think twice,” she said. “You don’t realize how isolated you are here until you travel and meet new people and I’m still in contact with people I met and have created friendships that will last. It really was the most incredible two weeks of my life.”