

Blogpost

During PEARC18, I met up with my mentor during a Student-Mentor Dinner. His name is Ben Nickell, he is from Idaho and works there as well. Mr. Nickell works for the Idaho National Laboratory as an Administrator in Computing Systems. When I asked, "How did you get into what you are currently working in now?", he gave me an explanation that I found interest in because it was a topic I'm looking forward to learning about. He explained to me that he would build the systems before the virtual "Banner System", came out to universities and colleges. He physically builds a system on the back end to display it for the front screen. I want to experience what it is like to create features on the behind the scenes aspect because I am the only one who knows what will happen when people are using my system. Mr. Nickell offered and gave me the opportunity to apply for an intern position in Idaho. He told me to start applying in February for next summer's opportunities and it will also give me the chance to work in a laboratory. Not only the laboratory experience, but also being able to travel to Idaho. I found interest in going to Idaho because of Mr. Nickell's stories and adventures that has occurred there. I would love to experience what it is like to go to another state in a different time zone as well. In Idaho, there is a two-hour time difference and I wonder how my body would adjust to that difference. This was the first time I have been away from my parents and the furthest I have been away. To be able to have a furthest distance away will give me the chance to keep branching out and wing myself away from being home so much. My future interest into science gateways is to explain to upcoming students that it is okay to try new experiences, even if you think you are not the best. That was my fear, I was afraid that I would mess up something during the conferences or hackathon. However, I have realized that everyone is learning together, and we are not going to know everything in the world, but we can definitely try to. Even working in groups being the only female, it does not change anything because we are growing together and helping one another. We all have ideas that can go far in the world and can contribute to wonderful projects. I would love to share my stories to individuals who are looking forward to experiencing science gateways.