

My name is Heaven Nicole Tate and I am from Portsmouth, Virginia and moved to Elizabeth City, North Carolina five years ago. As a student at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) and a part of the Center of Excellence in Remote Sensing Education and Research (CERSER) many things have occurred prior to this achievement. The experience of participating in a variety of clubs and organizations in high school, along with the leadership of Mrs. April Jackson, which who opened my eyes to the world of Mathematics. She was my Math teacher that helped support my passion and helped me see that the world is primarily based off of the beauty of mathematics. I am enthusiastic about being successful and motivated to try harder to gain my goals in life, which was what inspired me to join CERSER.

As a sophomore at ECSU, being a part of CERSER under principal investigator Dr. Linda Hayden, has been a privilege. CERSER has introduced me to skills such as working with Dreamweaver, Photoshop, digital cameras, and Linux.

During the summer of 2017, I attended the VESTMIC Summer Bridge Program. The duration of this program was for five weeks, and was held on the campus of Elizabeth City State University. The purpose was to allow STEM majoring students to continuously work their brains academically. During those five weeks, classes were provided in able to better prepare the students for what is to be expected in those courses. This program also allowed the students to visit the Proton Therapy at Hampton University At the Proton Therapy Institute at Hampton University. We learned that their purpose was to approach cancer patients with a much more precise and effective therapy that will minimalize the challenges they face. Towards the end of the program, all of the students were to participate in a research presentation. Each student was given their own topic, and had to formally present their topic of their choice of either a PowerPoint or a Poster. Awards were given to the top two students for their presentations. They tested students prior to the program, then again afterwards to see what information we were able to retain during those five weeks. Dr. Raynard Townsel and Dr. Rita Blair were the directors of this program, with the help of STEM major student mentors, who guided us along the way.

I plan on entering the Mathematics field when I complete my education. The plan is to work towards management in a data analyst field. My goal is to graduate from college with a 4.0 GPA and gain a Ph.D. in the Mathematics field.