



Vishali Beattie
Chapel Hill High School

Hi, I am Vishali Beattie, a rising senior at Chapel Hill High School. I have always been interested in the medical field and enjoy learning about biology and how science can improve people's lives. I am very excited for the opportunity to participate in the WFIRM program and learn more about regenerative medicine and research. Outside of academics, I stay active through martial arts, varsity swimming, and playing soccer with my sister. I also enjoy writing, drawing, and painting in my free time. I love spending time outdoors, especially camping with my scout troop, and I also enjoy traveling and exploring new places whenever I can. I am grateful for this

opportunity at WFIRM and look forward to gaining hands-on experience, learning from researchers, and meeting other students who share similar interests in science and medicine.

Sanga Desai
Chapel Hill High School

Hi! My name is Sanga Desai, and I am a rising junior in the IB program at Grimsley High School in Greensboro, North Carolina. I love traveling with my family and going on cross-country road trips to visit national parks. I have played soccer since I was 3 years old and have been on varsity throughout high school while also serving as captain of my club team. I also enjoy competing in sand volleyball during the summer with my friends. In addition, I am a member of the Grimsley Madrigals, an elite singing group at my school that performs at the North Carolina Renaissance Faire, sing caroling sets at churches, and competes at national competitions. I founded a Backpack Beginnings club where we volunteer at the facility and support students at my school who need help accessing meals and clothing. I also enjoy being part of the Science Olympiad team, where I placed in the top five in Disease Detectives, which helped grow my interest in medicine.

Because of these experiences, I am excited to broaden my horizons this summer through the High School Summer Research Exposure Program at Wake Forest University.



Muhammad Fawwaz
North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

Hi! My name is Muhammad Fawwaz. I am a rising senior at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM), and I plan to major in Biotechnology in college. I am passionate about science and research, particularly in the fields of biotechnology, biomedical engineering, and artificial intelligence. Through my academic and research experiences, I have developed a strong interest in applying innovative technologies to solve real-world healthcare challenges. Outside of academics, I enjoy working on engineering and programming projects, participating in science competitions, volunteering, and spending time with friends and family. I am excited to meet everyone and look forward to gaining valuable hands-on experience, learning from researchers and mentors, and exploring new opportunities in biotechnology this summer.



Miles Isler
West Forsyth High School

Miles Isler is an honor student at West Forsyth High School in Clemmons, North Carolina. He is interested in a career in engineering and has served as an intern at the Winston-Salem Mixxer space, participated in the Wake Forest University Summer Immersion engineering program, and attended North Carolina Agricultural & Technological State University's College of Science and Technology summer program. Throughout his educational career, he has engaged in experiences such as Project Lead The Way and 3D modeling and animation 1 and 2, as well as the Technology Student Association. He is JV lacrosse player, Youth Choir Leader, Guitar player, All-District Tuba player, Percussionist, and Pianist. He is actively involved in his community through organizations like Jack and Jill of America, Crosby Scholars, the Math, Science and Engineering Network, and the Youth Executive Leadership Academy. Miles values creativity, community, communication, sense of self, and hard work.





Christine Joyner
RJ Reynolds High School

Hello! My name is Christine Joyner and I'm a rising senior at RJ Reynolds High School. I have previously interned at Wake Forest University for biochemistry and molecular biology. I love the lab and am greatly looking forward to earning more experience in regenerative medicine. My favorite broad subjects are science and history, but outside of academics I enjoy writing, reading, and painting. I hope to go into research for my career, so I am very excited for the High School Summer Research Exposure Program at WFIRM.

Allison Kim
Junius H. Rose High School

Hello! My name is Allison Kim, and I am a rising junior at Junius H. Rose High School. I am very interested in biology and regenerative medicine, particularly in how scientific research can be translated into real improvements in patient care. My long-term goal is to become an MD-PhD, working as a bridge between laboratory research and clinical practice. My interest in this field first started during the pandemic, when learning about mRNA vaccines and biotechnology changed how I view cells—as dynamic systems that can be studied and guided through design. Later, discovering WFIRM's advanced work in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine further strengthened this interest and showed me how translational research can address real-world medical challenges, which further confirmed my desire to pursue this program. Although I will be commuting from Greenville, my excitement and commitment to this opportunity outweigh the distance. Outside of academics, I run varsity cross country, participate in choir and robotics, draw, and serve in my church and community. I also enjoy tutoring peers in math and science through "Study with Buddy," a club I founded. I am excited for the opportunity to immerse myself in regenerative medicine research at WFIRM and learn alongside renowned scientists, mentors, and peers shaping the future of human health.



2026 WFIRM HSREP Profiles



Ian Lee

Enloe Magnet High School

Hi! My name is Ian Lee, and I am a rising senior at Enloe Magnet High School. Outside of class, I love listening to and playing jazz, watching college basketball, playing tennis, traveling, and going to the gym. Growing up with a father who is a physician, I was introduced to regenerative medicine at an early age, which inspired me to explore my interest in the field and led me to this program. I am very excited to participate in the WFIRM High School Summer Research Exposure Program, and I cannot wait to learn more about regenerative medicine while gaining unique, hands-on experience!

Lamisha Selvakodis

Northwest High School

Hi! My name is Lamisha Selvakodis, and I am a rising junior in the Health Science pathway at Northwest High School in Justin, Texas. My favorite subjects are science, mathematics, and health science. I am actively involved in HOSA, National Honor Society (NHS), Student Council, and LEO Club, serving as both HOSA Secretary and LEO Club Secretary. I also serve as a Career & Technical Education (CTE) Ambassador, Advanced Academics Ambassador, and Wellness Ambassador for Northwest ISD. Additionally, I have earned several certifications, including OSHA General Industry Certification, CPR, Basic Life Support (BLS), Adult First Aid/CPR/AED, and First Aid for Severe Trauma through the American Red Cross. I spend time volunteering in hospitals, libraries, assisted living facilities, educational programs, and community organizations. Also, I enjoy playing the piano, swimming, classical dance, and teaching younger students through Sunday School and the Kumon Institute. My long-term goal is to become a cardiothoracic surgeon, and I am excited to participate in the WFIRM High School Summer Research Exposure Program. I look forward to exploring the innovative field of regenerative medicine.





Benjamin Shifflet
North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

Howdy, I'm Ben Shifflet, a recent graduate of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, and I will be studying some sort of science at UNC Chapel Hill in the fall. I've had some experience with research in mathematics in the January and Summer of 2025, and I've wanted to participate in a scientific research program ever since then. After I was told of this program, I did some brief research to find out what regenerative medicine is and thought it was incredibly interesting, so I decided that this was the perfect program to

find out more. Outside of academics, I play the flute and piccolo, do martial arts, mess around with Minecraft mods, and develop games.

Charles Williams
The STEM Early College at North Carolina A&T

Hi, my name is Charles Williams, and I am a student at The STEM Early College at North Carolina A&T. I have always been interested in science, especially biology and medicine, because I enjoy understanding how living systems work and how that knowledge can be used to help people. Through my STEM coursework and biology lab experiences, I have studied serial dilutions, spectroscopy, standard curves, and data analysis, which helped me become more interested in hands-on research. I was also a member of the Young Scientist Society, where I conducted field research and presented my findings. That experience helped me become more comfortable with the research process, from gathering information in the field to explaining my work clearly. Outside of school, I volunteered at the

Greensboro Science Center, where I enjoyed helping guests learn more about science and animals. In my free time, I enjoy indoor rock climbing, watching anime, playing video games, building collections, and learning about topics that interest me. I am excited to participate in the WFIRM High School Summer Research Exposure Program because I want to learn more about regenerative medicine, experience a real research environment, and meet other students who are also interested in science and medicine.





Yaning Zhang
The Kehillah School

Hi! My name is Yaning Zhang, though most people call me Amy. I'm a rising senior at The Kehillah School with a strong interest in biological research. Recently, I have been working as an intern in computational biology and data analysis, which has allowed me to explore how data can be used to answer biological questions. I joined the High School Summer Exposure Program because I hope to deepen my understanding of biology and gain more hands-on experience in research. Outside of academics, I enjoy traveling, baking, and listening to music.

I'm excited to learn, meet new people, and grow through this program!