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SPS Students Assist NASA Scientists with COVID-19 Research Through Internship at the University of Texas



Stamford Public Schools (SPS) announced that **Academy of Information Technology and Engineering (AITE)** Juniors **Kevin Fleischer** and **Anna Lichtenberg** and **Stamford High School** Senior **Prisha Kulkarni** were selected to participate in the Student Enhancement in Earth and Space Science (SEES) summer internship, hosted by The University of Texas at Austin's Center for Space Research. This nationally competitive program, sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Texas Space Grant Consortium, selects students to conduct authentic research using NASA data. Fleischer, Lichtenberg and Kulkarni conducted investigations as part of the COVID-19 Space Exploration for a Better World team.

SEES high school interns worked with scientists and engineers to conduct authentic research using NASA data and analysis tools, conducting research on how to properly sanitize spacecraft and assess viral health risks. The team used the Python coding language to predict vulnerable areas and track viruses, as well as ensure safe air and space travel. In addition, the space exploration team used CAD Software and 3D printers to design a spacecraft with social distancing capabilities.

Each team presented its research and solution to NASA personnel and other experts in the medical research field. Teams were organized around an aerospace or space science theme drawn from NASA's diverse engineering and scientific research programs. SEES sponsored several team challenges this summer, including designing Mars habitats, exploring lunar environments, tracing COVID-19 using NASA technologies, and examining the relationship of observed mosquito habitats to land cover.

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