



NJDOE News

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Two New Jersey Delegates Chosen for Annual National Youth Science Camp

The Department of Education is proud to announce the two student delegates chosen for this summer's National Youth Science Camp: Chang Young Kim, a senior at McNair Academic High School in Jersey City, and Lillian Hsu, a senior at Whippany Park High School in Whippany.

The two youths are scheduled to attend the camp from June 26 to July 21 in the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. There, they will join 100 other students in exchanging ideas with leading scientists and other professionals from both the academic and corporate worlds.

"The Department of Education wholeheartedly supports this initiative and we know that these two fine youths will experience nothing but valuable lessons this summer," Commissioner of Education William L. Librera said. "We congratulate Chang Young Kim and Lillian Hsu and wish them well."

The National Youth Science Camp is one of the nation's premier programs in secondary science education. Founded in 1963, the four-week program offers a variety of educational forums and recreational activities that encourage the development of thoughtful scientific leadership.

Topics covered at the camp include: fractal geometry, the human genome project, global climate change, the history of the universe, rain forests and robotics. Delegates are challenged to explore new areas in the biological and physical sciences, art and music with resident staff members. The students also present their own seminars.

Chang Yung Kim is a balanced student who is editor of his school's newspaper, "Cougar News," among myriad other activities. In 2002, he was named as a "Who's Who Among American High School Students" and placed first in the Hudson County Scholastic Bowl (an honor he garnered in 2001, as well).

"He is one of the best students that I ever had in my 17 years of teaching," Marla Emma Balleras, Kim's AP Physics teacher wrote in a recommendation letter. "He is very intelligent, an analytical thinker, responsible, hardworking and has personal initiative."

Lillian Hsu's accomplishments at Whippany Park High School are equally impressive. Among her many activities, Hsu received Excellence in Math and Economics awards in 2002, and she won Academic Excellence awards in 2000, 2001 and 2002. She is a member of the Morris Area Red Cross Youth Council and she scored an 800 on her SAT-verbal.

"Academically, she is truly gifted and personally, she is equally outstanding," wrote Deborah Thorn Mango, a biology teacher and adviser, in Hsu's recommendation letter. "Lillian writes well, has a high level of maturity, willingly accepts criticism and will not make the same mistake twice."

Should either student not be able to attend the camp, two alternates for the program have been chosen. They are: Silpa Gadiraju of Watchung Regional High School and Mona Wu of Cherry Hill West High School.

All expenses, including travel, are covered by the National Youth Science Foundation, based in Charleston, Virginia. For more information about the foundation, visit the following Web Site: www.nysc.org.

The National Youth Science program is one of many initiatives encouraged by Governor James E. McGreevey, Commissioner Librera and the Department of Education to improve teaching and learning in New Jersey.

The program helps the DOE carry out its mission of providing "leadership for a superior education by utilizing multiple and diverse paths to success for all children in New Jersey."

For more information, please contact the Department of Education's Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.