

WSU PUYALLUP HIGHLIGHT

July 27, 2005

Work Study student competes for National Institute of Health scholarship and is selected as a finalist

Petrina Pellett, Pacific Lutheran University student, has been working as a Work Study student with Jon Johnson since March of 2003. Petrina moved from Alaska to Western Washington 3 years ago to attend PLU where she is majoring in biology and chemistry. She is now working on her senior capstone project with Jon, which involves doing 100 hours of research, writing a paper and giving an hour-long seminar. Her research focus at WSU Puyallup is on Phytoremediation, using plants to clean contaminated soils.

This spring Patrina completed her eleven essay application for a scholarship with NIH (National Institute of Health). This scholarship is for undergraduates and requires that the recipient work for NIH in Maryland for one year after graduating. The award pays up to \$20,000 per year for tuition, books, and reasonable living expenses. Patrina was chosen to be one of 30 semifinalists out of the 300 highly qualified applicants. She was then selected to be a finalist. NIH is paying for her to fly to Maryland for an interview the end of this month. If she is awarded the scholarship, after graduating from PLU in the spring, she will go to work for NIH and apply to graduate schools to become a chemist.

Congratulations for making it this far and good luck in the future Patrina!

Weekly Highlights provided by the people and programs of WSU Puyallup. To include a highlight in an upcoming announcement, please contact either Heather Schriver, hschrive@wsu.edu, 253-445-4504, or Jon Newkirk, jnewkirk@wsu.edu, 253-445-4568

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