

# THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

## Former Neshoba Central student spending summer in research labs

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**Calisa Henry will spend her summer researching in state-of-the-art labs.**

A former Neshoba Central High School student will gain hands-on research experience in state-of-the-art labs this summer after she was selected into the Aspirnaut Summer Research Internship Program at the University of Michigan Life Sciences Institute as a resident counselor.

Calisa Henry, daughter of Amy Crenshaw and Dale and Heather Henry, attended Neshoba Central from kindergarten through 10th grade when she was selected to attend the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science her junior and senior years. She graduated in May 2018.

Henry will spend 10 weeks on UM's Ann Arbor campus working with a team of researchers in the life sciences. Participants will conduct their own research project, and gather results that contribute to cutting-edge research. At the end of the summer, Aspirnaut interns will present their findings to peers and mentors. The 2018 program will be June 3 through Aug.

In the Summer of 2017, Henry attended Aspirnaut High School Summer Research Internship at VU and researched metabolites which could serve as potential biomarkers of obesity. An article about her research was published in the Heliyon Scientific Journal on April 11, 2019.

She returned to Vanderbilt in the summer of 2018 to attend an Aspirnaut Undergraduate Summer Research Internship and researched proteins found in fly ovaries. She presented this research during the National Institutes of Health - National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Division of Kidney, Urologic, and Hematologic Diseases Conference in Boston, Massachusetts and the American Society of Nephrology Kidney Week Conference in San Diego, Calif.

"Ms. Gloria Seward, my TAG teacher in second and fifth grades, was the first person who motivated me to go to MSMS and always reminded me that I can do anything if I set my mind to it," Henry said. "I found out about the Aspirnaut program through a fellow student at MSMS who participated in the program the year before I did. The program has provided me with many opportunities to make professional connections and improve my presentation and communication skills."

Henry remains unsure of what career field she will pursue. She is currently attending Berea College in Berea, Ky. "I grew up wanting to be a doctor at St. Jude Children's Hospital from the time I was four so this internship was a great opportunity for me to gain experience in the field," she said.

Seward is very proud of her former TAG student. "She is a very determined girl," she said. "I knew that when she was little. I try to find my students' strengths and try to push them in the way they should go according to their aptitude." That was math and science for Henry, she said.

"She really benefited from the Math and Science School," Seward said, recalling how they worked to convince Henry's mother that it was the right place for her.

"She succeeded and did great. She started a robotics club up there and a robotics team. They didn't have one. Knowing Calisa's love for medicine, I think she will go into medical engineering. I wouldn't be surprised if she finds a cure for cancer one day.

"She is not scared to go for it. What's so great about her is when she goes somewhere she finds a good church and then a good social life. I am very proud of her."

At Neshoba Central, Henry participated in TAG, band, color guard, Beta Club, Bible Club, Future Business Leaders of America, yearbook and robotics. She was involved in Student Government, FBLA, Beta Club, CRU Bible study, and Engineering Club while at MSMS. She is the granddaughter of Judy and Herman Reid and Dale and Karen Henry.

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