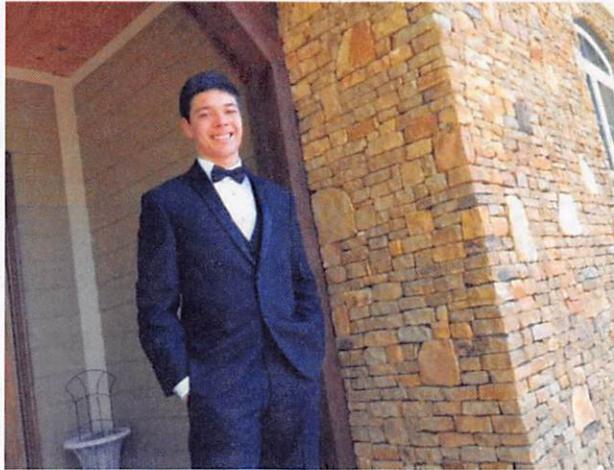


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Summer science experience: Adamsville High student accepts internship at Vanderbilt, will work in biomedical laboratories

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Tanner Liddy is going to spend his summer doing an internship at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. / Submitted photo

Written by Nick McFerron

Tanner Liddy, an upcoming senior at Adamsville High School, is going to spend his summer doing an internship at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

The internship is offered through the Aspirnaut program and is designed to give students the opportunity to work in biomedical laboratories.

“I was looking at internship opportunities, and I saw that Aspirnaut was giving internships for kids that go to small schools that don’t offer a lot of extra class, so I applied for it,” Tanner said. “I’ve always been interested in science and being able to help people.”

John Liddy, Tanner’s father, said he found out about the program last year and began applying for it.

“He applied for it in January or February. He had to write some essays and get teacher recommendations. It was a pretty extensive application process,” John Liddy said.

Tanner and his father are both excited about the opportunity to learn about a field Tanner is interested in.

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"It's going to be a really good opportunity," Tanner said, "meeting new people and learning more about the medical field, getting to be in Nashville."

John Liddy thought the idea of a paid internship would be better than other summer prospects.

"It beats mowing yards," Liddy said. "I think mainly it will give him exposure to this work environment, and it should give him an idea of whether he wants to do this for a long time."

This is not the first time Tanner has spent a summer away from home. In the summers after his seventh- and eighth-grade years, he went to Duke University in North Carolina for other science programs.

"I really got to meet a lot of interesting people, a lot of smart kids from different backgrounds," Tanner said. "I had the most Southern accent out of all the kids. It was like I was from a different planet."

Tanner said the experiences at Duke gave him a look at what college would be like at a very young age.

"It made me want to learn more," Tanner said. "We would go to class five or six days a week, and afterward we'd have activities for some fun."

Even before Tanner's experiences at Duke, he was a well-traveled child, spending years in Indonesia, Mexico and North Carolina before his family settled in Adamsville.

The program starts June 1 and runs through July 12. Tanner will be living in student housing and will have an opportunity to learn more about Vanderbilt University and Nashville while he is there.

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