Hearing from professionals in the field as well as working alongside mentors/professors in the lab, as it provided invaluable insight into what it’s like to work in engineering/research, and helped me decide that that’s what I want to do with my life!

I learned lots of new skills involving research and presentations, and I also found a field that interests me.

Completing a project and feeling like I created an end result that I am proud of.

I learned a lot while in this program and developed soft skills and independence that I didn’t have before.

I thought it was an amazing experience learning about all the STEM based careers there are. Before this opportunity I wasn’t sure what to major but after these five weeks of research and YSP experience, I think I have a good grasp of what I want to do. And it was very helpful that we learned how to build a professional profile and learned how to present our research.

What was the most rewarding aspect of YSP?

- Hearing from professionals in the field as well as working alongside mentors/professors in the lab, as it provided invaluable insight into what it’s like to work in engineering/research, and helped me decide that that’s what I want to do with my life!
- I learned lots of new skills involving research and presentations, and I also found a field that interests me.
- Completing a project and feeling like I created an end result that I am proud of.
- I learned a lot while in this program and developed soft skills and independence that I didn’t have before.
- I thought it was an amazing experience learning about all the STEM based careers there are. Before this opportunity I wasn’t sure what to major but after these five weeks of research and YSP experience, I think I have a good grasp of what I want to do. And it was very helpful that we learned how to build a professional profile and learned how to present our research.
The Center for STEM Education measures YSP impact on students in three regions: research skills, soft skills, and STEM and college awareness. These are based on the Engineering Competency Model, a joint initiative by the U.S. Department of Labor and the American Association of Engineering Societies.

Research skills are technical abilities that students can develop and utilize when exploring and researching scientific questions.

Soft skills are students’ personal qualities required to adapt and improve in the work environment.

STEM and college awareness is based on student’s knowledge and confidence regarding STEM career options, college applications, and college life.

Participants’ Sense of their STEM Identity Post YSP
(4.15 Avg) = I have a strong sense of belonging in the community of engineers or scientists.
(4.67 Avg) = I have come to think of myself as an aspiring engineer or scientist.
(4.67 Avg) = I feel like I belong in the field of “engineer” or “scientist.”
(3.62 Avg) = I am an engineer.
(3.73 Avg) = I am a scientist.

Strongly Agree = 5
Somewhat Agree = 4
Neutral = 3
Somewhat Disagree = 2
Disagree = 1

Overall, despite it being on a virtual platform, I had a great experience! It was amazing to hear from professionals in the field, and the sessions on college essays, financial aid, and creating a LinkedIn were all really useful. I know it’s difficult to organize given the changing COVID situation, but the field trip to Northeastern was definitely a highlight!

- 2021 YSP Participant