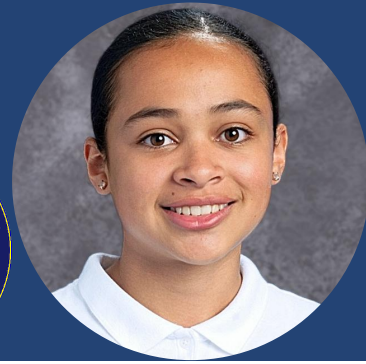


Student Spotlight



I was lucky enough to work at the **Alameda County District Attorney Family Justice Center** - an organization dedicated to rehabilitating people experiencing socio-economic hardship, especially families who have experienced abuse.

Before my first day of work, I was extremely frightened to start this new chapter in my life, gaining insight into the reality of adulthood. Needless to say, I came into the experience having remarkably low expectations. I thought I would be treated like a child and I wasn't going to feel welcome in the workplace. However, this wasn't the case at all. Through this **valuable experience**, I've learned to **open up** and **share my ideas**, to address situations that might intimidate others. Also, I've learned to **communicate more effectively** with peers and the families we encounter. I can't appreciate and thank my supervisors Karla, Stephen, and Vanessa, as well as my coworkers who have helped me along my journey. Equally important, I've learned to **take initiative** within my workplace as well as in my personal life.

Outside of my own skills development, I've learned that there are a lot of things that everyday people don't pay much attention to. While everyone wishes for a good life, the defining qualities differ for each person. Not everyone dreams of a luxurious house or large sums of money. Some only wish for three meals a day, a roof over their head, and a bed to sleep in every night. Unfortunately, that dream can stay a dream. Luckily, the Family Justice Center aims to help those in need by distributing food, providing housing, clothes, and most importantly, safety.

They ensure that anyone who comes for help is welcomed and made to feel like they have a **voice and power** - and their **stories and experiences matter**.

I'm **grateful for this experience** and look forward to seeing what my continued work experience holds in store for me.

Student Spotlight



I had the privilege of working at **East Bay SPCA** - a non profit and animal welfare organization. At a young age, I was up for the challenge to be professional and **share my awesome abilities** at the workplace.

When I first learned about the Corporate Work Study Program, I was very interested. It was interesting because they gave high school students, like myself, the opportunity to experience first hand the structure and functions of a work environment.

Looking back at this year with an abundance of experience and new skills now in my tool belt, it has honestly been **an amazing and worthwhile experience!** I love the love that is show at my workplace. **All the love allows me to push through** tasks that I may not particularly look forward to. For example, I don't always love listening and responding to a lot of voicemails. On some days, I will also admit that I might go into work having a bad day or feeling tired. However, as a strong young lady, **I have learned that when certain things get difficult, I can't give up.**

My experience has literally been amazing; I feel like I was placed at a job where **I truly belong** since I am able to **communicate a lot with customers** and I get to show my **social skills** and **public speaking** abilities. It is amazing to see for myself how much I have grown in such a short amount of time, not just as a student worker, but as an all around leader in my community.



Student Spotlight



WEBCOR



First, thank you to Cristo Rey for giving me this opportunity as well as the Corporate Work Study Program team that match us to our job sites. Also, I would like to thank each supervisor for opening the doors of your companies and letting students experience a real job.

When I first heard that this school offered the opportunity for me to work once a week, I was very excited because it was going to be something very new. Before my work experience, **my dream was to be a radiologist**. However, the Corporate Work Study Program team gave me the opportunity to work in Webcor - **and that changed my mind completely**.

On the first day of work, **I was really nervous**, I didn't know what I was going to do. I hoped it was going to be a good experience and it turned out to be **one of the best experiences of my life**. I worked in the **Project Controls Department** and I felt very happy to be part of their team because it helped me realize that **I really like the work that I do**.

My supervisor, Candace, has taught me many things. When I first got there, she taught me how to send out invites to contractors, how to send out contracts for the contractors to sign, and she has even taken me to various important meetings. All this allows me to gain a greater understanding of how to carry out my job. Every day **I strive to learn and gain more experience** for my future. **My co-workers have also been a huge help** to make this experience so great - they help me with anything I need. Everyone at my workplace is very kind and helpful.

Now, my goal is to continue to be part of the Webcor team for the next four years since I know that in my future **I would like to study business administration**. Likewise, I know that this work program is going to open many opportunities for me. Thank all of you for the opportunity to work. **It helps us learn what we truly want to be when we grow up**. Thank you.