

Learning Report (NCRC)

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National Collegiate Research Conference (NCRC) is a conference which opens for all undergraduates who are currently conducting research in their universities to join and exchange ideas. After taking part in NCRC, I felt that my horizon had been broadened and my mind to pursue further studies had been consolidated as well. There were several keynote speeches given by renowned speakers from diverse disciplines, ranging from Nobel Laureate to retired editor in the New York Times. I felt lucky to grasp an idea of current issues not only in the United States but also the entire globe within such a short period!

Apart from inspiring speeches, NCRC provided several opportunities for us to meet the insiders not only from scientific research but also practitioners in medicine, gender equality and so forth. As I personally would like to obtain as much information about further studies as possible, I took part in one seminar in which we could raise questions to current PhD students and administrative staff in graduate studies in Harvard. Moreover, I got the chance to chat casually with current PhD students in Harvard during tea break. Throughout the conversation, I enjoyed the thinking process of those students in terms of deciding schools and areas to study when they were applying for graduate studies back then. These thinking processes are useful and essential for me because I can consider graduate studies from several different perspectives, such that I can make a well-informed decision when I apply.

The most exciting session which I anticipated before I left for Harvard is the poster session, during which I shared my current research with other participants. Not until I started to explain my research did I realize how difficult it was to explain complicated scientific issues to people who was not in the same discipline as me. Besides, I learned some new insights from discussing my research topic with the judge for the poster session, including blind spots and new possibilities, which I had never expected before. As NCRC accepts students from all disciplines, it was my first experience to explore some research topics totally unrelated to my discipline. Even though I may not fully understand those topics, I observed the brilliant ideas that my fellow students harbored and their passion in those topics.

As NCRC is held by a student-run organization, they had limited resources to arrange the lodging details for participants. Hence, I had to sort out the flight, accommodation and visa on my own. Although this did create some financial barrier for students studying outside US to participate, I consider it as a great learning experience to plan my trip abroad independently. Here I thank Ho King Chun Leadership Fund for providing financial support to me for this trip to NCRC.

In summary, NCRC is a great platform that expands my vision as a global

citizen and facilitates me to exchange ideas with like-minded undergraduate students in the US. I will also recommend this activity to fellow students in HKU such that they can seize this valuable chance to share their research ideas in such a special conference that tailors only for undergraduate students.

