

XSEDE Experience

The XSEDE Conference was a great opportunity to network with people, gain knowledge in different areas, present my research, and to tour the beautiful city of St. Louis. I didn't know what to expect because this was my first time ever attending and presenting in a conference. It was also my first time flying, so that was an experience within itself. On Sunday when we arrived at the conference the first event that was planned was a Student & Student Mentor Dinner. At this dinner we basically just networked with one another by having an around the table discussion. This is great because On Monday which was the student tutorial day, I attended two tutorials one being Supercomputing in Plain English, Part 1 and the other one was an introduction tutorial to Python which is a programming language. The information I learned from the tutorials was very helpful but they were so long, sitting for four hours is a very long time and after while I was just ready to move to the next tutorial. After a long day of tutorials, I and some of the cohorts decided that we would like to go and see a baseball game so that was exactly what we did. First we found some tickets for about 20 dollars then went to the baseball game, the St. Louis Cardinals vs. the Cincinnati Reds. This was my first MLB game and I enjoyed every second of it. I also witness a Grand Slam at the game. On Tuesday which was the student modeling day, I and several members of the cohort attend a session in which we had a take a particular code and implement ideas so it would have a different outcome. This was an amazing experience which allowed us to work together as a team to complete the task at hand. This opportunity also gave me a chance to work with some coding in python language, which I have done a little bit of coding in that language before but really wasn't use to it. On Wednesday which was the student poster session, we presented our posters. In my opinion this was the best day of the conference because it gave me the opportunity to show what I had been working on within the eight weeks of the Visualization REU program. I got nothing but positive feedback and more ideas on how I could improve my research project as a whole. One person said that I should run my application of a rendering cluster instead of a regular Dell Desktop. Another person said he loved my research because you could clearly see and understand what I was trying to produce in my research. We also went and took a tour of the St. Louis Famous Arch. It just amazes me that we as humans can build a structure so massive and impressive. The view from the top of the arch was just mind blowing, on one side you could see the whole Sr. Louis city and on the other side you could see the Mississippi River. On Thursday which was the last day of the conference, they had an award ceremony and a final dinner. After the awards ceremony was over everybody within the VIS REU program began to get sad because it was time for so to part our separate ways and go back home. In this 8 weeks I have built relationship with multiple members of the VIS REU program.

