

Empowering Diverse Voices: Unveiling the Impact of KIS Youth Summer Science Camp

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Program Highlights

Our collaboration provided newcomer school students with an opportunity to explore microbiology, physics, electronics, and nanotechnology through peer-based and experiential learning. The camp encouraged students to deepen their inquiry about the environment, using nature for wellness. It also fostered meaningful friendships, connections, and a sense of belonging. Since 2021, over 75 students (K-12) from various countries of origin have participated.

Our 2022 TPC presentation on “KIS and TRU Collaboration: Building resilience in newcomers through experiential learning and storytelling”



Reflections



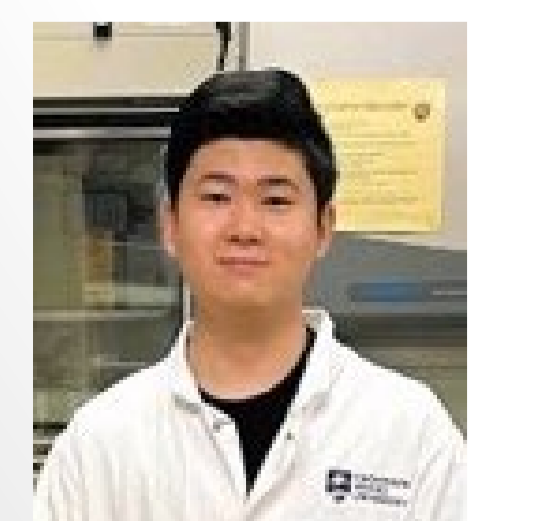
“On the inequity in education and opportunity, I continue to harness the positive energy that the difficult life experience has given me as a minority female immigrant microbiologist, to move ahead by paying it forward to the next generations through being heavily invested and involved in a community outreach project such as this one.”
 Dr. Naowarat (Ann) Cheeptham – Co-Founder and Co-organizer



“As an assistant professor at TRU and a co-organizer at the KIS science camp, I’m dedicated to empowering diverse young minds through community outreach and education. Sharing my expertise in physics, electronics, and nanoscience with immigrant school children in Kamloops reinforces my belief in the importance of equal opportunities for lifelong learning.”
 Dr. Anusha Venkataraman – Camp Co-organizer



As a Settlement Worker in Schools (SWIS) supporting newcomer school-age students across School District 73, I am grateful for our partnership with TRU, the Kamloops Naturalist Club, and NatureKids B.C. Being a “science nerd” and nature enthusiast myself, I am excited to create opportunities for our newcomer students to experience fieldwork, experiential learning, and most importantly, value and connect with the natural environment around them.
 Clara Kong – Camp Co-Founder and Co-organizer



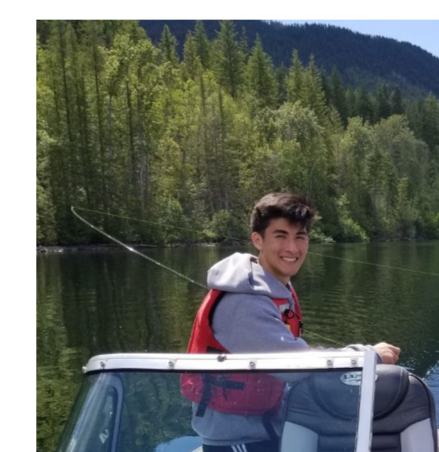
“As an international student myself, I understand the difficulties of a language barrier and hardships of adapting to a new life in a different country that many international students face.”
 Aman Galymov – Camp co-organizer and Student Volunteer



“I think these camps help inspire the younger generation to learn more about the world of science, as well as inspire the university students who volunteered to collaborate and think outside the box as they prepare to begin their careers as scientists.”
 Joey Egeland – Camp Co-organizer and student volunteer.



Impact and Achievements



“I enjoy being able to educate the younger generation as well as inspire experiential learning and curiosity in the vast area of science.”
 Matthew Hanks - Student Volunteer



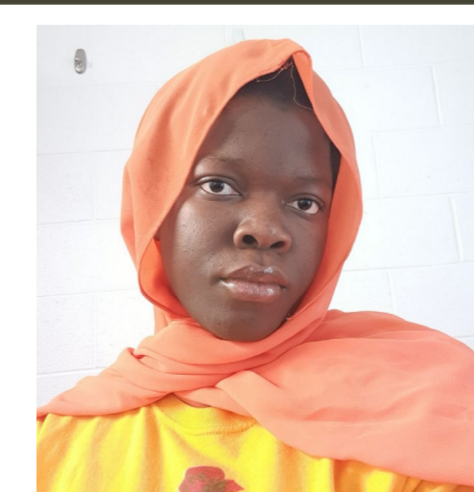
“Interacting with kids of all ages, cultures, and lived experiences has continued to enrich my life-long learning as well. As a medical student, supporting underserved groups has helped me understand how important it is to celebrate diversity in our community both in education and healthcare.”
 Keilin Gorman – UBC Medical School student volunteer



“As a black female international student in research, I believe in empowering others like me to pursue their passions, to engage in community initiatives, such as the work being done by KIS, and to help shape a brighter future for the next generation by just getting involved.”
 Verneesa Smith – Student Volunteer



“We all experience the same natural world, so all kids should have the same opportunities to be able to explore what curiosity they desire and the KIS Science camp provides a good opportunity for them.”
 Fernando Bouthillier – student volunteer



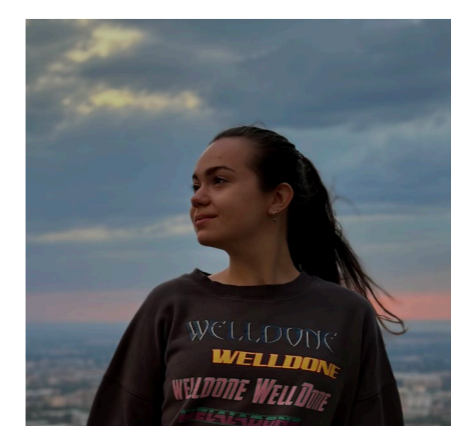
“To me, science is lots of fun, and having to share my knowledge and excitement about this subject is so cool to me.”
 Olaitan Adeyemi - Student volunteer



“Being an immigrant in Canada has allowed me to appreciate the difficulty of learning a second language and all the social aspects of immigration. This initiative allows for a positive and engaging environment for kids to break down their barriers towards learning.”
 Manuel Centeno - Student Volunteer



“I am excited to be able to participate in educating younger students about the fascinating world of science and its never-ending questions!”
 Sara Lawrence – Student Volunteer



“Participating as a volunteer at the science summer camp provided me with a fulfilling opportunity to inspire young minds, foster curiosity, and contribute to cultivating a love for science among future generations.”
 Oleksandra Kovalenko – Student Volunteer

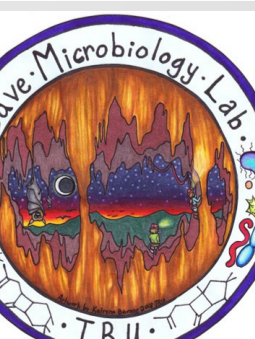
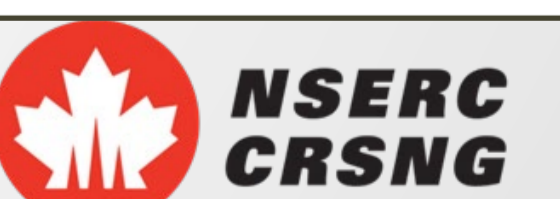


Future Vision

Our goal is to transform our summer camp into a year-round community of learning, encouraging deep connections and knowledge-sharing among campers. Focused on microbiology, physics, electronics, and nanotechnology, we aim to create an ecosystem where young minds explore, create, and collaborate beyond traditional classrooms. This community will inspire future scientists and innovators while nurturing a lifelong passion for learning and discovery, pushing the boundaries of what is possible and making a lasting impact.

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*All the pictures of the camp participants were used with permission from the parents