

FAU HIGH STUDENT AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY CHINESE IN CHINA



Leah Booher, a Florida Atlantic University High School student, has been awarded a National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarship to study Chinese in China. She will study abroad for six weeks this summer in Xia Men.

NSLI-Y, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is part of a government initiative that provides merit-based scholarships for eligible high school students and recent high school graduates to learn less commonly taught languages in summer and academic-year overseas immersion programs. The initiative aims to spark a lifetime of interest in language learning and prepares American citizens to be leaders in a global world by promoting critical language learning among American youth.

Leah credits her mother with fostering a development of languages in their home. From day one she would play a tape with sounds of all the world languages. Leah and her mom spoke in French, German, Italian, and English on alternating days during Leah's early years. She feels indebted to her mom for recognizing an ability to learn Chinese and giving her opportunities to pursue a passion for learning Chinese.

Leah is a dual-enrolled student who is currently on track to complete Associate of Arts course requirements when she receives a high school diploma. After graduation from FAU High she would like to major in East Asian languages and literature with Chinese as her language, and minor in business or Political Science. Then she thinks it would be wonderful to receive a Ph.D. and to utilize her knowledge to help the world, or to teach students her love of learning Chinese. She is unsure of a definite career path, but she already knows that the future holds opportunities for those with Chinese proficiency; such as in the diplomatic corps, state department, development sector, and business community. "It is startling to think of how far I could go, but I am excited for all that the world will bring."