

## 2016-SARAS Parent Feedback

Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

I am the father of Somin. My daughter had been wondering what kind of her future career she should pursue before taking this 2016 SARAS program and this program was a good opportunity for her to narrow down the lists of her wishful professions she would like to choose. I am a nursing student myself, and she has been also interested in studying nursing major influenced by me I guess. Nevertheless, I've always wanted her to consider other medical professions not limited to a nurse major and I believe that this can provide her with a broader view on overall health professions. This was also her first time sleep away program, and we missed her and also glad that she was able to take care of herself in a remote new environments. Now she knows about nursing field more than I know including expected annual salaries. First week, she was able to pack everything she needed and planned. Second week, she enjoyed the school program and socialized with people at her dorm and program class. After the third week, she looked matured inside and outside of her. I appreciate this opportunity and hope there will be next in-depth program after this wonderful program. Thank you.

Yongjoon

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Good Morning,

Wow. This is not at all a reflection of our enthusiasm regarding this amazing program that was so skillfully organized. My daughter Mikayla had a fantastic learning experience. The SARAS program was such an amazing way of opening the eyes and minds of these youngsters of the many opportunities in the medical profession. I am very impressed and in awe of the level of coordination, planning and energy required to make the program run as smoothly as it did. For that, my husband and I are very thankful that you continue to have SARAS on a yearly basis. Mikayla learned tremendously and had a really fun time and also made some good friends. Please keep us informed of any future activities you recommend or is a part of. We sincerely thank you and all your organizers for such amazing work.

Michael and Nadine

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

First, please accept our most sincere Thank you for all you and your colleagues do! Our Daughter, Yazmin, cannot stop sharing with all in our family, friends, and sister, also a Doctor, about her 2016 summer SARAS experiences. From the first day auditorium introduction, which you allowed us to attend, we knew this would be a very unique and special experience this group of children had been afforded.

Your good sense of humor and the giving nature of all your colleagues' time, is simply pervasive through all the staff's helpful spirit. For example, every weekend we picked up Yazmin on campus, the housing staff were always cordial, respectful, helpful, but firm regarding policy and housing protocol. The program is simply invaluable from the perspective of exposing and familiarizing young minds to the various facets in the science of medicine. Moreover, The introduction video, setting in quotes, the possible circumstance of each patient, truly set the tone of Stony Brook School of medicine emphasis and mission of Care Giving...Yazmin came away much more knowledgeable and even more excited and motivated to pursue a career in Medicine and research. Today, in addition to all her High school science classes, she asked he guidance counselor to also enroll her in an elective class in Forensic Science to expose her even more how the sciences can unlock the hidden secrets in nature. It is her hope, for someday to follow the good example you have all provided: to make a contribution to humanity. Again, we are so thankful for the time you and your colleagues shared with our children. Please know, you are making the world a better place!

Most Gratefully Yours,

Rafael & Yazmin

P.S. Yazmin says she will be absolutely sending her early application for Stony Brook admissions next year!

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Hi Dr. Srinivas

My son (Vedant) liked SARAS program. He told that this course was very informative and fun filled. He also mentioned that he learned a lot about different topics which is going to help him in future. On top of that, every day the lunch was delicious. Overall everything was great.

Sandhya

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Dear Dr. Pentyrala,

This is Alvins mom, Alison. I would like to express my appreciation for hosting such a great program this summer. Alvin enjoys this medical camp so much that he came back home decided to be a doctor! I was not there but I think it must be an awesome program to change a 16-year-old's mind. I look at the weekly photos that you sent out for parents and students. I can see how much effort and time you and your staffs had put into this wonderful program! Thank you so much! I'm surely recommend this camp to our school and community.

Sincerely Yours,

Alison

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Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I am very thankful for the wonderful experiences you have allowed my daughter Alejandra to have. Every day she would come home and tell us all about the lectures that were given, and all the wonderful doctors that spoke to them about what they do. She was very interested in the information each doctor spoke about because has been trying to determine which specialty in medicine to pursue. I thank you for your time and work you put into this program because it is very beneficial to all students. She has also told me about the new friends she has made and how fun the days were because of these friendships. I think the work you are doing is extraordinary because it allows students to have an idea about what they might want to do in the future and even for the rest of their lives. Thank you very much.

-Rocio

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Dear Mr. Pentyala,

First of all I would like to thank and appreciate you for everything that you have done for my daughter and her friends. Sona loved the program and she was always excited to go back the next day. She would always come home and tell us what she learned that day. Also, she has gained a particular interest towards anesthesiology due to your program. In fact, we left to India a couple days after the program ended, and Sona told a couple of her cousins about the program and what she learned from it. From your program, Sona has opened her eyes to other fields in science that she normally would not have considered. Personally, I think you guys did an excellent job organizing the program and I have told about this program to my family friends and colleagues.

With gratitude,

Santy

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Hello,

I believe for the most part, my child did enjoy the program. From what I saw, the SARAS program was heavy in the medical aspect of science. Maheen was tired when she came home, so I would want the day to start a little later, but with all the traffic, starting the program at 9 in the morning is a good decision. I don't know much about how the experts lectured, but my daughter would come home with many notes. So I assume they taught her many things. SARAS program seemed enjoyable for my daughter.

Sincerely,

Ayesha

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Very nice summer program for highschoolers. Good introduction and overview of different areas of science and medicine. Thank you Dr. Srinivas Pentyala.

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Dr. Pentyala: It is with great pleasure that we take this moment to reflect upon our son Zachary's participation in the 2016 SARAS series. Zachary was excited about exploring the many different aspects of medicine through the personal perspectives of prominent doctors in many different fields. Zach would return home from SARAS each

day with stories (and notes) about the day's events, hands on experiences, films and photographs, jokes and of course the lunch menu. From the trauma surgeries to the labs, to CPR, lectures and workshops, it was evident that Zach's involvement at SARAS was enlightening, informative, educational, challenging and all together a maturing and gratifying experience. We are extremely grateful that Zachary had the opportunity to experience the series' lectures, workshops and demonstrations alongside his intellectual peers in a renowned Hospital and University such as Stony Brook. We look forward to sharing Zach's SARAS experiences with friends, family and colleagues.

Many regards.  
Brian and Debra

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

I am parent of Nikhil. I wanted to say thank you for the wonderful program. It was very informative, useful to my son. It helped to strengthen his interest in health sciences as one of his career choice. Thanks for the time you spent in organizing this program. Thank you again for a wonderful program.

Purna

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

I hope all is well and your vacation was good! I am Prashant - father of Monishka who was SARAS 2016 student. To me, SARAS provided a great exposure to various fields in science and medicine to Monishka. SARAS opened up quite a few windows in front of students and provided them with an excellent opportunity to further pursue field(s) of their choice. It helped them understand the real world behind some of the theory. It gave them a true picture of reality and helped them realize what doctors and physicians go through. On top of it, we kept on hearing your name often! Some of the science and medicine things can be serious but your wit had kept them funny and interesting for the kids. I also enjoyed all your emails and it surely brought smile to my face. I thank you for what you are doing for the kids and hope that you will continue to do so. It was a pleasure for us to send Monishka to the SARAS program. Thank you

- Prashant

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My daughter Aria had the great opportunity to participate this summer's SARAS program. SARAS gave her a chance to explore the field of medicine. Also, it helped her to learn from others. She has met many people from different school districts, which, opened her to more ideas. SARAS has given my daughter a chance to explore science, many fields of medicine including the pros and cons. Above all taking the public transportation for three weeks has built her self-confidence, safety awareness, and made her become a stronger individual. Thank you for giving her this opportunity.

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My son, Christopher, recently participated in the SARAS program at Stony Brook University and he told me that he had an amazing experience this summer. He would always recount his daily routine, from his morning commute to the interesting lectures he attended. From my perspective, I believe that the SARAS program prepared Chris for his future endeavors as he would like to pursue a career in medicine. Based on his experiences, I find that the thought provoking lectures and interactive workshops guided by scientific and clinical professionals really sparked an interest in medicine to not only my son but all of the program's participants. This program gave Chris a great opportunity to make use of his summer in an academic manner while also allowing him to socialize with his high school friends and students from other schools. All in all, I would highly recommend this program to parents of other students who may have even the slightest interest in science because their experience at SARAS could possibly maximize their full potential. Since Chris' father is a physician, Chris has always had an affinity towards medicine simply through our influence. As a result, thanks to the SARAS program, Chris now has the proper stepping stones towards a bright future.

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Your SARAS program provided my rising 10th grader great exposure to different careers within the medical industry. He didn't realize that the medical field could include specialties such as biotech and robotics

engineering, which he now is excited to learn more about. Taking classes in the Stony Brook Health Science Center gave him a small taste of college and he is now looking forward to taking more college programs. He mentioned that although all the speakers were very informative, some were a little boring. He especially enjoyed the lab portions of your program. Overall your program is a great experience for high school students and with lunch included, an incredible bargain! Thank you!

Cindy

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Hi Srini:

My daughter Karen Jiang attended this year's SARAS program, it has been a special experience for her. She had learned a lot of health related information which was not taught in school. This program is really great, it gave my daughter a chance to explore this field, helped her to think about her true interests. Another best thing is the food! Even my daughter Sarah is still miss the food there! Hope this program keep running forever, my son is looking forward to experience it in the future! Thank you!

Qun

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Dr. Pentyala,

There are no words to thank you for what the SARAS program has done for Samina. I feel that attending the program has truly altered the course of her life. And not for the obvious reason that it really solidified her interest in pursuing medicine. Or even that the exposure to so many medical specialties helped her to realize that she is actually interested in surgery, something she had never even considered before. I don't know if she realizes or will even acknowledge how fundamentally the SARAS program changed her. That being the case, prior to SARAS, Samina refused to even consider any university more than commuting distance from home. It was only my declaration that she would not be allowed to live at home for her first year of college, that allowed/forced her to consider schools that were a little further away. And even then, she was only looking at schools that were close enough that she could come home every weekend. However, spending 3 weeks at SARAS has changed that completely! She is now considering universities in Boston, DC and VA. The reason for this is the wonderful program you ran at Stony Brook. She learned that there were her 'kind' of people out there and that she could handle being on her own. It gave her the confidence I have been trying to instill in her for years (and it happened in just 3 weeks!). So thank you! Attending the SARAS program was one of the milestones in Samina's life. It has opened up a whole world of possibilities for her which will undoubtedly lead her to a much brighter future.

Kavita & Satish

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Hi Srini,

Thanks for organizing the wonderful SARAS program that my son Krishna enjoyed thoroughly. He made some great friends during the program and got an inside view of the medical profession and what it takes to become a doctor. He has been expressing interest in becoming a doctor for the last couple of years and this became a doorway to the medical profession for him. Please continue this great program and spread the light of knowledge...Deven

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Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala,

This is Daniel mom. Thank you so much to organize 2016 SARAS summer program. It is a wonderful program and I can't tell how much my son enjoys the program. He lectured me every day after the camp. Here are feedbacks from me:

- 1) The camp is very organized. From transportation to schedule and the topic of each speech, and of course the lunch
- 2) There are many areas have been covered. It is good for kids to expose to different area and may help them for future career.
- 3) The veteran home visiting was a really nice trip. My kid was really enjoying it and he even told me that he wants to help elder people when he grows up.

Again, thank you very much for having Daniel in the program!

Best,

Yingli

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Srini,

Thank you for the experience Cassidy had with the SARAS! It solidified her desire to pursue a profession in the sciences possibly in medicine! The breath of diversity opened her eyes to the many possibilities in the world of research and science. She didn't stop talking about the robotic hysterectomy!! Thank you again for offering this program to the adults of the future!

Kathy

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Thank you so much for all of the hard work that went into making the SARAS program so successful. Our daughter Alexa had an enjoyable and enriching experience in the program. There was an excellent balance between entertainment and education. Alexa was exposed to so many topics in science and healthcare that she otherwise would not have access to. She has gained new interest in areas she previously had little knowledge about and is inspired and motivated to learn more about these exciting fields. Your leadership of this program was excellent and provided just the right amount of guidance. Thank you again for the wonderful program that you offer to the students. Enjoy your school year!

Andrea and Bruce

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Hi Dr. Pentyla:

Greetings!!! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for making the past 3 weeks of SARAS a wonderful experience for my daughter, Nina. Nina's older brother, Martin, had also been a SARAS participant 3 years ago and likewise, it had also been a great summer program for Nina. Nina has attended all 15 days of the series!!! SARAS has given her the opportunity to get introduced to so many departments in the medical field. It reinforced her interest in the field. Thank you very much for always keeping the parents updated with the daily e-mails!

Again, thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Irene

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Hello, I am the mother of Michael and I think SARAS was a rally good program for him. Most of the time, he would come home and tell us about a topic that intrigued him, and this was very rewarding. It is very clear that after participating in this program, he knows a significant amount more about science than he previously had. I think that his participation in this program will be extremely useful in both the short and long run because it will assist him not only as he takes more science courses in high school, but give him inspiration for potential research topics. So thank you for this wonderful program and do not stop.

Mike's Mom

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Dear Dr. Pentyla,

I feel Kathy gained so much knowledge about the medical area through the SARAS program. Now she has some idea about different careers in the medical field. This will help her make decisions for her future career direction. Also, thank you and the committee for making the program affordable and providing lunch every day.

Paulina

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Hello Dr Srini,

I am really happy that I had signed my son Nigel for your fun filled and educative SARAS program. I have seen the enthusiasm and enlightened look in my son every day of the program when I drove him back home at the end of the day. He had so much to tell me and had a lot of questions of how and why?? He has a better understanding now after listening to the great speakers and their experiences and struggles/successes. I would like to personally thank you for your effort in putting together this excellent program and give it a five star review. I also appreciate all that you and your staff have done to make sure the kids got on that 4.18 pm LIRR. You are a great inspiration for these kids.

Thanking you,

Sunita

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We are very glad that our daughter Ayanna had the opportunity to participate in the SARAS program. We know that she enjoyed this program very much because every day when she came home she was very excited to tell us what she had learned each day. We were also happy that Ayanna had the experience of meeting, listening to and interacting with actual surgeons, physicians and experts in the medical profession. This SARAR experience has reinforced Ayanna's dream of becoming a doctor.

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Hello Dr. Pentyala,

My daughter, Priyanka, attended SARAS at Stony Brook this year and loved it! Before the program started, I took a look at the day-by-day schedule and was very impressed with the advanced topics and lectures. The program really gave her an insight to the wide variety of professions through the sciences. Priyanka came home every day from SARAS telling me all she learned. I want to thank you for coordinating an amazing program and giving the students the opportunity to learn more about what they love.

Regards,

Nita

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My daughter, Ankita, greatly enjoyed SARAS and came home talking about the new things she had learned there every day. I am happy that she loved the program so much. Her brothers, Akash and Anshul, also attended this program which made her want to go as well. She has told me about her desire to go into the field of medicine, which I fully support, and I am grateful that she has enjoyed this program so much. I think that the program greatly influenced my daughter to become a Doctor and delve more into the vast opportunities that science has to offer both her and those around her.

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