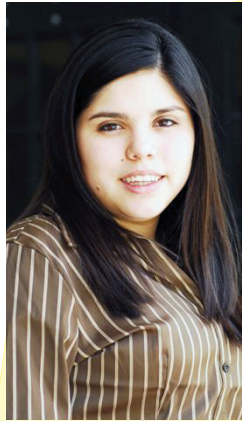




Project GRAD Houston Spotlights a Reagan High School Scholar



FROM DENVER HARBOR TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Jesika Silva, 2008 Project GRAD Scholar from Reagan High School, is on her way to Harvard University in the fall. As the first person in her family to attend college, upon graduation she plans to work in a big law firm, yet manage to handle cases for people that can't usually afford a lawyer. When asked what she is looking forward to most when she attends Harvard, Jesika said, "The challenge. I know that every day I will be put to the challenge and I will be given the opportunity to grow."

Jesika certainly rose to the challenge of giving her best at the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC) Biology Institute. Out of all of her experiences as a Project GRAD Scholar, her favorite memory was that of attending the UTHSC Biology Institute over the summer. "It was fun, entertaining, yet educational... I enjoyed watching the open heart surgery the most!" When asked whether she would like to share anything else about her UTHSC Biology Institute experience, she said, "Being able to tour the medical center was fun. I learned a lot and the professor managed to make science interesting. I would recommend it to anyone. You'll do everything from touring a lab, separating DNA, and even watch open heart surgery."

Her message to Project GRAD Scholars currently in high school is to: "Do whatever it takes to meet those requirements. The summer institutes are fun and you will get to meet new people, even from your own school. Just keep in mind that not everyone is willing to give you \$4,000 for college, so the fact that they are even giving you that opportunity is great."

Parting words as she makes the transition from high school to college? "I feel that my entire life I have worked to get where I am now and it was all worth it. I don't regret any moment. Now that it is finally paying off, I am ready to keep working hard and achieve that high level of success that I have always desired."

GRAD is fully confident that Jesika will keep working hard and achieve a high level of success when she begins her collegiate career this fall. From Denver Harbor to Harvard University, she has, and will continue to make us all proud.



The mission of Project GRAD is to ensure a quality public education for all students in economically disadvantaged communities so that high school and college graduation rates increase.