Hathaway Brown’s groundbreaking signature SCIENCE RESEARCH & ENGINEERING PROGRAM unlocks high school girls’ innate potential, placing them in professional laboratories at world-class institutions to do the work that can change lives.
program NUCLEUS

By opening the doors to laboratories that students otherwise might not be able to enter until college or even graduate school, the Science Research & Engineering Program at Hathaway Brown is bridging the divide between the traditional high school curriculum and the real world. Since 1998, more than 500 girls have participated in the SREP, earning placements in innovative research settings, working directly with practicing-scientists, contributing to cutting-edge research in numerous fields, authoring and co-authoring scholarly articles published in scientific journals, and winning unparalleled recognition in prestigious national and international awards competitions. HB is proud to partner with such outstanding institutions as Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and NASA Glenn Research Center in this pioneering and longstanding initiative.

control GROUP

The Science Research & Engineering Program at HB is especially effective and influential because it was created for girls. Studies have demonstrated that while women surpass men in written examination, they often lack the confidence to showcase their intellect in application. Yet before they graduate from 12th grade, HB’s SREP students are essentially able to try on the role of professional researchers, learning in application. Yet before they graduate from 12th grade, HB’s SREP students become reliable members of research teams at a number of Greater Cleveland institutions. The girls commit to working in their respective labs an average of once per week during the school year and several weeks each summer. Before they graduate, SREP students must prepare a formal scientific manuscript on their research, which documents their work and is entered into national and international competitions.

METHOD

The SREP is a four-year elective course of study offered through the flagship Institute for 21st Century Education at Hathaway Brown. Roughly one-third of all HB Upper Schoolers participate each year. When they are freshmen, SREP students explore science and engineering disciplines through the SREP Seminar, a discussion class that allows them to identify research options that fit their interests at area partner organizations. SREP’s in-house Research Directors then facilitate the arrangement of individual research initiatives. More than 200 professional scientists and researchers have partnered with SREP students since the program was founded. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors enrolled in SREP become reliable members of research teams at a number of Greater Cleveland institutions. The girls commit to working in their respective labs an average of once per week during the school year and several weeks each summer. Before they graduate, SREP students must prepare a formal scientific manuscript on their research, which documents their work and is entered into national and international competitions.

data POINTS

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• HB is the only school in the state, and one of only a handful of schools in the country, to have earned a first affiliation with the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, the World’s largest per-college science competition. This means that HB students can go directly to ISEF competition without first qualifying through a regional science fair.

• The SREP has been featured nationally on PBS NewsHour and PBS Women in Science television programs, and on USA Today, Inventor’s Digest, Seventeen, Teen People, Weekly Reader, Science, USA Today, Inventor’s Digest, Seventeen, Teen People, Weekly Reader, Science.

• The SREP experience was an incredible way to build confidence. At West Point, there were only 12 cadets in my class of 116 students who majored in physics. I was one of only two women. The experience of learning challenging material and conducting independent research in high school made me confident that I would succeed in a difficult major. I also felt that the SREP cultural expectation that women can and do excel in traditionally male-dominated fields like science and math gave me confidence that has served me well as an Army officer.

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• The SREP has been featured nationally on PBS NewsHour and PBS Women in Science television programs, and on USA Today, Inventor’s Digest, Seventeen, Teen People, Weekly Reader, and more. Additionally, SREP students and their work have received a fair amount of local and regional media attention.

• Supporting EVIDENCE

Those familiar with the program are impressed with the outcomes achieved by Hathaway Brown’s SREP. Fuller versions of the testimonials contained here and several additional endorsements of the program may be found online at www.hb.edu/SREP.