

## **Life After the IHP:**

### **Reed Alum and Hydrodynamicist Leah Sosa visits Ms. Jung's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Classes**

*Reed Alum Leah Sosa '97 visited Ms. Jung's 8<sup>th</sup> grade science classes last Friday, to share her experiences in college and on the job in the STEM field of Hydrodynamics. Following are some excerpts from the student reflections, thanking Leah for her visit:*

Thank you so much for taking time out of your day to come talk to us! It was very cool to see what a former IHPer can do with her life and it made me think about my future. The Webb Institute seems like an amazing school with an incredible experience, and it is very helpful that it is tuition free. I also thought that it was very interesting to see one of the experiments you did. Science experiments are super fun at school, and to see them being applied to real life is awesome! Your presentation made me dream of big things to accomplish when I get older and have a job. – Amelie Missig'18

Your presentation showed me that if you focus on your academic career, you can go to new and unexpected places, especially if you are unsure what you want to do later in life. I was shown first-hand that, as opportunities arise, your expectations and plans can drastically change – even lead you to another country. - Enzo Banal'18

It really opened my eyes about thinking for my future. Like, which college I want to go to, what I should major in, and what job I want. Your section about Webb Institute made me remember that there are schools other than UCLA, Stanford, Harvard, and other popular schools. Your presentation, how you really were not sure what you wanted, reminded me of myself. I am going to research jobs and colleges to get ready. - Caira Paredes'18

I was fascinated by the fact that you went to a college that had a waived tuition, so that you would not have to pay for college. The presentation made me think about how I will soon go to visit colleges and universities, and it will only be a matter of time before I start applying for them. - Jeffrey Kwon'18

Our class really enjoyed learning about Webb Institute. I was amazed at how small it is, it made me think about how in some cases having smaller class sizes could be beneficial. I like the idea of a small college because professors can focus more on students and you can get to know all of your peers well. - Scarlett Pinkey'18

I liked how you talked about what college you went to in depth, because that time of my life is creeping ever closer, and I want to have as much information as possible. The information you gave about Webb Institute made it sound very appealing to me. - Nicolas Eisenberg'18

I am thankful to know that Webb Institute is free. I am curious, too, how hydrodynamics work, and your presentation answered some of these questions for me. - Ben Martin'18

I learned a lot about Webb Institute, and even more about Quantum. The fact that you get to put stabilizers on cargo ships is something I didn't know about previously. Webb Institute was fascinating, the school is only 100 people and the graduating students have diverse career paths. Boats are always interesting, and maybe I can have a career in boat engineering. - Minki Shin'18

It was really interesting to learn about Webb Institute, since I had never heard of it before. It's really cool how you were a part of Quantum and helped create a different kind of stabilizer that utilized the Magnus Effect and is more effective in certain situations. I am also interested in becoming an engineer. - Lydia Qin'18

Thank you for coming back to Walter Reed Middle School. Your presentation showed me another possibility for the future. Web Institute will be on my list for college applications. - Scott Lee'18

It's not every day that we have a hands-on experienced engineer come and teach us what they do. Knowing that you're a Walter Reed graduate was also cool, knowing that we went through the same program. Without you coming here I don't think we'd ever know about Webb and I wouldn't have added it to the list of schools I have an interest in. Thanks again for taking time to give that presentation to us, it was greatly appreciated. - Aydin Talebreza'18

This gives me hope of finding possible career choices in engineering and a good college choice. - Ben Youn'18

I think that what you do is really cool and inspiring to us. Especially because some of us don't have enough money for college and you were still able to become a successful engineer. - Wesley Icken'18

Your presentation showed me the type of community you can build going to a small school. For example, being able to walk from your dorm to class in 15 seconds! It doesn't matter where you go as long as it suits you! - Aidan Forte'18

I have always thought of myself as an English type of student but now you gave me a whole different perspective on math/science related jobs. I thought all the experiments and test you did were very interesting. It's very cool how you are so invested/interested in your job that you moved halfway across the world for it. - Devin Downey'18

Thank you for being such a great role model and (in a way) teacher! - Max Song'18

Your presentation told me that the future is unpredictable and that anything can happen. I now might put Webb Institute as an option for college. It sounds really fun and cool to go to. I also liked that it was a school where there weren't many students. I just want to say thank you for talking to us about schools and how engineering would be like if we took that path. - Ian Kim'18

I learned a lot about hydro engineering, a career I didn't know existed. Thank you so much. - Jaden Stewart'18

It was cool to learn about your job and other cool things like the Magnus Effect. - Tobias Chapman'18

Your presentation reminded me of how important engineering is in our lives and in the world. I really liked what you said about women in engineering and standing up for oneself. I am now considering engineering or a career in one of these fields because of you. The thing that struck me the most about your presentation was your love for your job and your extensive knowledge. That is something I aspire to have in life. Your interest in what you do made me interested. - Edith Bachmann'18

You are my ideal role model and I hope I can be like you in the future. - Jane Bricklin'18

Thank you for inspiring and pushing others to reach their goals. - Justin Park'18

By talking to many of my classmates, I could tell that you inspired many of us, and made us think about possibly becoming an engineer. - Kara Kim'18

I am now considering possibly becoming a scientist like you and working on the same kinds of projects you do when I get older. I learned loads of information! - Lailee Golesorkhi

I think I can speak for everyone when I say that your presentation helped and inspired us to work hard for the future. You made me realize there are so many options and paths to take in life. Thank you! - Zachary Driscoll'18

The hardest thing to do after high school is to find an appropriate college/university, and the hardest thing to do after college/university is probably finding a job that you would love doing. Your presentation told us that no matter how difficult it may seem, and no matter how much anyone would fret about the choices they make later on, in the end, if you are willing to try new things everything will turn out alright. - Matthew Chak'18

I was shocked to hear that you were the only woman (or one of a few) sometimes when you were working. I knew that there weren't many women in the math and science fields, but I didn't know it was that extreme. It was inspiring to hear from a woman in math and science (as a girl who is also interested in those subjects). Leah, thank you so much for coming to our classroom and telling us about what you do! - Leila Pagel'17

Your presentation inspired many. For me, engineering became a field I want to consider, and it made me think about the gender role. Your answer to Ms. Jung's question made me and my friends realize that women can do as many things as men can. - Hannah Kim'18

It was so fun to hear from an achieved scholar who was once in my shoes. Hearing all the hard work and effort you put in, and how far it took you, really inspired me. I especially appreciated the female role model you were. Your words on not letting a man overpower your voice really stuck with me and inspired me to be brave. - Mireille Karadanaian'18

You mentioned how only 7 women in your class were hydro engineers. Your courage to be a part of the 7 women made me feel like I have a chance to do the same. You showed me it is ok to not be sure about what I want to do. As long as I follow my passion, I can do great! Your visit really means a lot to me. I never would have known these things without you. Thanks for changing my vision! - Andrea Garcia'18

I admire your vigilance and your ability to persevere. As you said, there are not many women working in hydro engineering, and you mentioned that you have felt some of the repercussions due to this. Your ability to keep your head up is so inspiring to girls our age. Thank you for becoming an image in our lives. Because of people like you, young women like us can keep our heads high. - Netta Nakash'18

Your presentation really opened my eyes to what I want to do with my life after IHP. Thank you Ms. Sosa! - Mila Seraji'18