

# ***Regeneron STS Finalist from Columbus, Ohio Making her Community Proud***

By Akhila Boda | 03/18/2020

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Adriane Thompson, a seventeen-year-old, is not your average high school senior. An avid scientist, Thompson has been exploring science since she was a child. Whether she's volunteering at COSI or partaking in molecular genetics research at Denison University or The Ohio State University, Thompson puts her very best in every task. She takes inspiration from Jane Goodall and Roslyn Franklin, both who have spearheaded scientific research and outreach, as women in STEM.

With parents who are both biologists, Thompson had an early start to science through exploration in summer camps. Her love for science grew as she saw the impact science can have on her community, which motivated her to explore research. Currently a student at the Wellington School in Upper Arlington, Ohio, Thompson is a part of the Independent Student Research (ISR) Program. Through ISR, Thompson was able to connect with faculty in the molecular genetics department, learn how to read scientific publications, and ask appropriate questions. Thompson's open mind allowed her to fully grasp topics, which led her to joining Dr. Jay B. Hollick's lab in January of 2019. Even more, Thompson took part in the Internships in Center for Applied Plant Sciences (iCAPS) that summer, where she was able to complete a bulk of her research project for the 2020 Regeneron STS competition.

Regeneron STS is one of the nation's largest and oldest competitions for high school seniors to showcase their STEM research with the public. Yearly, approximately two thousand high school seniors compete and Thompson is not just a Top 300 Scholar, but she is a Top 40 Finalist. Thompson will be receiving a \$25,000 college scholarship and is also competing for the top ten awards, which range from \$40,000 to \$250,000. Thompson's work focuses on

the epigenetics in corn and how the genes can be regulated without changing the DNA. Thompson will be presenting her project in Washington, D.C. this summer and will have the opportunity to network with highly experienced researchers and government professionals. After Regeneron STS concludes, Thompson plans to continue her project and help in the Hollick lab until she heads to college. She has not committed to a college just yet, but her plans are to attend Grinnell College in Iowa and study molecular biology and neuroscience.

Apart from STEM, Thompson is passionate about politics. At Wellington, she is involved in Model UN and her school's debate team. She enjoys watching movies classic films at the CAPA Summer Movie Series in Downtown Columbus. Additionally, Thompson is a dedicated dancer for twelve years in jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, and ballet. She is also an active member of her school's Global Citizenship group and had the opportunity of studying abroad in Spain in 2019.

Thompson's hardwork, without a doubt, will carry her to many successes. In the future, she hopes to earn a PhD in molecular biology and teach science at a university as a professor or at a nonprofit as a researcher. As a role model for women in STEM, Thompson will continue to shape the world around us.