

The Triangle TRIBUNE

THE TRIANGLE'S CHOICE FOR THE BLACK VOICE

"Celebrating Our 24th Year"

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Sunday, August 21, 2022

SCHOOL NEWS



COURTESY

East Chapel Hill High student Pristine Onuoha, center.

ORANGE COUNTY

East Chapel Hill High student Pristine Onuoha won the eighth national Genes in Space STEM competition.

Onuoha seeks to understand the mechanism behind telomere lengthening, a chromosomal change that has been observed in space travelers.

Her experiment will be performed by astronauts aboard the International Space Station next year.

Telomeres are structures that protect DNA from damage, and shorten with age and wear.

Surprisingly, telomere lengthening has been observed in space travelers, notably Astronaut Scott Kelly, the subject of NASA's Twin Study.

Onuoha's experiment will explore the possibility that telomere lengthening is caused by a space-induced proliferation of stem cells.

Onuoha developed her proposal with guidance from her teacher, Kimberly

Manning, and her mentor, Harvard University scientist Ana Karla Cepeda Diaz. In their company, Onuoha will travel to NASA's Kennedy Space Center to watch her experiment launch to space in 2023.

Onuoha's proposal was selected from a competitive field of 602 submissions from 1,175 students across the U.S.

Authors of the top five proposals were invited to present their ideas to a distinguished panel of scientists, educators, and technologists at the ISS Research & Development Conference in Washington, D.C.

GRANT

Recent North Carolina high school graduates are eligible to have tuition and fees covered at any of the state's 58 community colleges through the Langleaf Commitment Grant.

The grant provides between \$700 to \$2,800 to cover the cost of tuition and fees for up to two

years at a North Carolina community college. For full-time students to receive the grant, they must meet the eligibility requirements:

* Apply for admission to any North Carolina community college

* Complete the 2022-23 Free Application for Federal Student Aid submission process

* Be a North Carolina resident

* Be a 2022 North Carolina high school graduate. (High school equivalency completers (are eligible.)

* Be a first-time college student

* Be enrolled in a curriculum program for the 2022-23 academic year

* Be taking at least six credit hours per semester. (Part-time eligible students will receive a partial award.)

* Be a student who has completed the 2022-23 FAFSA

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