

RSCS Senior, Aspiring Agricultural Engineer Attends National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists Congress

Dominick Uriah, a senior at Richfield Springs Jr. / Sr. High School, says it was his first job as a teen that made him want to become an agricultural engineer.

Before moving to New York State with his family, Dominick lived in Minnesota where he not only attended a private school specializing in agriculture, but worked on a farm for two years.

“One of the first things I did on the farm was helping the owner work on a tractor,” said Dominick, who currently works at G & T Farms, a beef farm on Route 20. “That’s what really sparked my interest in engineering. My dad is also a mechanic.”

Dominick, who will be attending SUNY Cobleskill next fall to study agricultural engineering, says agricultural engineers do a lot - - from building tractors to creating more efficient equipment and machinery for farmers to use in the field.

Because of his interest in agricultural engineering and good grades - - especially in Chemistry, Aquaponics and Principles of Engineering - - Dominick was recruited by The National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to attend its Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders during the summer. The three-day event, which was only for a select group of students from across the country, was held in Boston on June 29-July 1.

According to its website, The National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists was created in 2014 to “inspire and support all K-12 and college students who wish to devote their lives to the sciences and technology.” The organization works to help students acquire the necessary experience and skills at the earliest possible age to take them to the doorstep of vital careers. This is accomplished by providing students with compelling educational material, online social networks, opportunities to be guided and mentored by leaders in science and technology, skills acquisition, career guidance and more.

The Academy’s Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is held every summer, and selected students are awarded full and partial scholarships to attend. It’s an incredible opportunity for students like Dominick to hear from various experts in the STEM - - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math - - fields, and to network with students with similar interests.

“I greatly enjoyed talking to many of the students who want to be an agricultural engineer just like me,” said Dominick. “I learned so much.”

Dominick had such a positive experience that he’s encouraging fellow and future students to take advantage of these types of educational offerings.

“If you ever get the opportunity to go to the Congress, you have to do it,” said Dominick!
“It’s very prestigious, and you get a bunch of recommendations for college.”

Dominick is the son of Christopher and Margaret Uriah of Richfield Springs.