

2010 Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship Winners



Shannen Cravens

Shannen Cravens, a third year student at the University of San Diego, is a superb student who also has been actively doing research involving both computational methods and biophysical laboratory techniques. Shannen desires to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry and go onto teach at a primarily undergraduate institution. Shannen is a very well rounded student, excelling in the field of chemistry as well as in other extracurricular activities. Her nominator, Dr. Debbie Tahmassebi, writes: "Shannen has shown a remarkable ability to grasp and learn some very complicated computational methods. At an early state in her research she took ownership of her work.... Shannen is working to determine the structure of actinomycin bound to a DNA duplex containing a non-natural nucleoside using NMR and computational techniques. The project requires very careful data analysis and meticulous record keeping. Shannen has learned several computational and modeling programs and has proven to be a very fast learner and a very focused young scientist." Furthermore, Shannen achieves all of this while volunteering as a chemistry tutor and playing clarinet in the Pep Band.