

NEWS RELEASE: LOCAL STUDENT SELECTED FOR INTERNSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS TO ASSIST NASA SCIENTISTS WITH COVID-19 Research

Aryan Mathur, a student from Chandler High School from Chandler, Arizona, has been selected for the prestigious Student Enhancement in Earth and Space Science (SEES) summer internship hosted by The University of Texas at Austin's Center for Space Research. This nationally competitive program sponsored by NASA's Texas Space Grant Consortium selects students to conduct authentic research using NASA data. Aryan is conducting investigations as part of the Mars 2020 team. Here is Aryan in his own words:

"We analyzed NASA produced satellite data concerning the impacts of COVID-19. NASA's OMI device aboard the Aura satellite illustrated **falling levels of nitrogen dioxide** produced from industrial activity, along with lower activity in major US shipping ports. We concluded that the data reflected **lower levels of human activities due to global quarantine restrictions in different nations.**"



Aryan worked with NASA subject matter expert, Suzanne Foxworth of The University of Texas at Austin and NASA Texas Space Grant. Overall background theme here.

The NASA SEES high school interns work with scientists and engineers to conduct authentic research using NASA data and analysis tools. Teams are organized around an aerospace or space science theme drawn from NASA's diverse engineering and scientific research programs. SEES sponsored several team challenges this summer, including designing Mars habitats, exploring lunar environments, tracing COVID-19 using NASA technologies, and examining the relationship of observed mosquito habitats to land cover and environmental data obtained from satellites.

The COVID-19 Safety & Health team conducted research on information being presented to the public and how to recognize reliable resources, gather information and solutions on indoor air quality, how human activity contributes to the spread of the virus, and what the impact of COVID-19 has been on NASA missions and personnel. Each team presented their research and solution.

The SEES internship provides an outlet for the excitement many students feel about Earth and space science. Interns are offered a unique opportunity to work with professional scientists and engineers at the cutting edge of NASA science, experience being part of a science team, and explore STEM career options firsthand.

The STEM Enhancement in Earth Science (SEES) project is supported by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) cooperative agreements NNX16AB89A to the University of Texas Austin for the STEM Enhancement in Earth Science (SEES).

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