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“JUMP ON OPPORTUNITIES” THERESA SAENZ

... ENGINEER ...HONOR STUDENT
... FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR
... MICHIGAN CITY SUCCESS STORY

Michigan City’s Theresa Saenz is working hard to preserve our planet, researching technologies to harness solar energy.

SOLAR SCIENTIST: A 2013 graduate of Michigan City High School – with a 4.0 GPA – Theresa received her degree in material science and engineering from Purdue in May, graduating from the Honors College and College of Engineering. Again this summer, she’ll intern at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado. Thanks to a prestigious Fulbright fellowship, she will then spend a year in Germany researching solar cells. “When I return, I’m going to pursue a PhD in material science, which I enjoy because it combines physics and chemistry. And I’ll continue doing work on solar cells because of my concern for the environment.”



CITY STRONG: Theresa credits MCHS – especially her chemistry teacher, Mark Marz – with preparing her well. “Mr. Marz was incredibly supportive of students pursuing careers in STEM, and he set a rigorous bar. Kids can practically sleep through chemistry at Purdue after going through his class.”

REAL LIFE PREP: In high school, Theresa was a National Merit Scholar, editor-in-chief of the yearbook, and a member of the varsity softball, cross country, and Japanese Olympiad teams. “There’s great diversity at City, and a wide variety of opportunities. It helped prepare me for what real life is like.”

SECRET TO SUCCESS: “It’s important to have goals and a plan to achieve them. But you also need to jump on unforeseen opportunities, even if they weren’t a part of your plan.”

Did you know?

Fourteen members of the MCHS Class of 2017 graduated with perfect 4.0 GPAs.

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