

## My Summer of Innovation

By: Aileen Montana, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Hut Brown Middle School

Teacher: Ivette Hinojos

A more than unexpected surprise, not just any surprise but one that could possibly change my life. I mean I always knew I loved science, just wasn't so sure as in the branch. And that is how I knew. How I knew that this is what I wanted to do. Being a seventh grader makes it hard to define what we want to be when we grow up, but this, this made me be more than sure.

July 5, 2010 was the chaotic day that was the start to a possible drastic change in my life. It was the start of where my future plans would then change from wanting to be a lawyer to investigating more into all kinds of spatial engineering. We did a lot of experiments throughout this "Summer of Innovation – Launch and Learn" program, but out of all the rockets we launched, and all the experiments that we did with each lesson learned only one was the one that truly convinced me, the electrical rocket. The coke and mentos rocket, the water and air pressure rocket were just not as amusing as a rocket built by one of our fellow classmates. The electrical rocket (as we called it) was just astounding to all of us! It probably reached a height of about thirty yards, I may not know the exact measurements of how far it went, but I do know that I did loose sight of it for a while until I could see it coming back into the ground. It also went surprisingly straight for being a rocket launched by kids our age with not much experience. When I saw that rocket fly up into the sky a bunch of thoughts ran into my mind, and with them amazement. Astonishment to how that is able to happen, it made me so interested in all the components of such rocket, and the way it was built. Such experience is what I would have to call my life changing experience, because that is the moment where I came to realize that this is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I could really picture myself at the moment sitting down in an office trying to figure this whole thing out then going out and putting it all to use on the real thing!

After going through three full weeks of morning lessons of creating model planets and solar systems, kites, and rockets, as well as afternoon experiments I feel like I learned a completely new thing. Something that came to me as a surprise because I wasn't expecting to learn that I loved doing this, that I loved experimenting with rockets and had lots of fun watching them go to the sky. For now I feel like I want to study this type of engineering, probably even get a masters degree on it so I can be more instructed yet have fun while doing it. I came to this new verdict of my future thanks to a summer program that I came into thinking it would come out with something completely different than from what I did, a new future.