Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy

Jade Park
Class of 2017
Location: Kolkata, India
Work Description:

• Worked in the institute’s catering unit preparing meals and desserts for the facility, alongside people with disabilities

• Helped ensure that students, visiting from the Center for Special Education (CSE) to gain vocational training, were included and actively involved in food preparation

• Worked closely with the catering unit supervisor to develop project ideas
Catering Unit
Work Experience:

• Learning how to integrate myself within a fast-paced and foreign work environment

• Working through seemingly insurmountable language and communication barriers

• Learning from co-workers who dismiss their own disabilities and work with dignity and joy, even in the seemingly small tasks
Summer Projects & Impact

• Created 5 pictorial catalogues of all kitchen items & appliances in English and Bengali, to serve as learning aids for new workers

• Created a pictorial recipe book that people with disabilities could follow
Work Reflections

- Interacting with kids with disabilities reinforced my desire to pursue a related path in medicine.

- Creating projects for people with disabilities challenged me to exercise empathy in new ways.

- A little bit of persistence and patience can go a long way, even if a common language is not shared.

- A willingness to learn from others is the quickest way to establish trust.
Exploring Kolkata

Snippets from the walking tour & the drive to the outskirts
Concluding Remarks

Especially grateful for…
this summer of personal and cultural growth along
with the new friends and mentors made through my
summer at IICP.