

Superintendent Highlight of the Week: January 16, 2015

Each year I become more impressed by work of the students in our science research program. Even though I am a former physics teacher, I am still blown away by their projects and am left bewildered by the level of sophistication of their study. Such is the case when I heard the details of the project from our recently announced INTEL Semifinalist from Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School,

Arielle Gabalski. Arielle's research is titled: *The Induction of Insight through the Priming of the Right Superior Anterior Temporal Gyrus.*

The purpose of Arielle's study was to determine whether operational priming of the right anterior superior temporal gyrus can facilitate a participant's cognitive insight problem solving ability. A nationwide sample of 316 participants was solicited and randomly assigned into one of three conditions. Results suggest that auditory priming tasks are significantly more likely to interfere with subject concentration and act as a distraction during cognitive insight problem solving.

Arielle worked on her research as part of our AP Psychology Behavioral Research Program under the mentorship of her teacher, Mr. Ray Tesar. The Intel Science Talent Search (Intel STS) is the nation's most prestigious pre-college science competition. Alumni of STS have made extraordinary contributions to science and hold more than 100 of the world's most coveted science and math honors, including the Nobel Prize and National Medal of Science. Annually, students entering the Intel STS compete for more than \$1.6 million in awards. Only 300 students are announced as semifinalists each year. From this select pool, 40 finalists are then invited to Washington, DC in March to participate in final judging, display their work to the public, meet with notable scientists, and compete for three top awards of \$150,000 each.

Congratulations to Arielle, Mr. Tesar and all of the POB staff that has worked with her over the years!

