A “Bond” Not Broken With Blindness
The importance of Accommodation and Encouraging Students with Disabilities to Pursue Careers in the Sciences

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Points of Discussion

• My story
• The significance of supportive professors
• Classroom and testing accommodations
• Lab accommodations
• The importance of summer research
Losing my vision but not my mind

Images from attending Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama (2008).
From Hating Chemistry to Living for Chemistry

What changed my opinion?
The Impact of Professors

• Be available
• Be open-minded
• Be communicative
• Be supportive

Image: https://manoa.hawaii.edu/exploringourfluidearth/chemical/chemistry-and-seawater/covalent-bonding
Classroom Accommodations

• Low vision technology
• Descriptions of material displayed during class
• Bridging gaps by building models
• Tactile Graphics
Aira & eSight Glasses

Aira Horizon Glasses

https://aira.io/aira-for-higher-education

eSight

https://www.esighteyewear.com
The Best “Lab” Accommodation
Enhancing the Lab Experience for Blind and Low Vision Students

• Having a lab assistant
• The role of the lab assistant
• Tactically marking glassware
• Talking Lab Quest

Summer Research Opportunities for Students with Disabilities

National Science Foundation’s Research Experience for Undergraduates specifically for students with disabilities:

1. Science and Engineering Leadership Initiative REU at the University of Delaware - [https://sites.udel.edu/seli-ud/](https://sites.udel.edu/seli-ud/)

2. Science and Mathematics REU at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology - [https://people.rit.edu/bcjntm/REU.html](https://people.rit.edu/bcjntm/REU.html)

American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Entry Point!

Places students with disabilities in a variety of internship programs - [https://www.aaas.org/programs/entry-point](https://www.aaas.org/programs/entry-point)
Benefits of Participating in a REU & My Summer Experience at University of Delaware

Computational Chemistry Research
Research involving Constant pH Molecular Dynamics simulations to analyze the effects of altering pH on protein structure

• Teaches students how to advocate for themselves in graduate school and the workplace
• Exposes students to areas of chemistry that are not hindered by disability
• Integrates students into the graduate student community
Concluding Remarks & Thank You!

Ask us anything!