



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

DAVITTE KHAUV

As a rapidly developing field, biotechnology offers great opportunities, and FSCJ's Biotechnology program connects people with those opportunities. Davitte Khauv and her family immigrated to the United States from Cambodia when she was 18 months old. Her family had ambitions for her to become a doctor when she grew up, but following the example of most of her cousins, Khauv decided to study computer science. After receiving her Associate in Arts degree, she was unsure of her career path and not ready to pursue her bachelor's degree. She had an interest in laboratory work and while doing an Internet search on careers related to the field, she discovered the newly

launched biotechnology program at FSCJ. She researched biotechnology and learned it was a very broad field with endless opportunities. In a recent interview, Khauv shared with us what has happened to her since earning her Associate in Science in Biotechnology from FSCJ.

Q: Where are you currently employed?

A: I am currently a research assistant at Mayo Clinic in the Radisky Lab, which focuses on the tumor microenvironment and the mechanisms involved.

Q: How did you obtain your job at Mayo Clinic?

A: I interned with Dr. Radisky through FSCJ's Biotechnology program, and I was offered a position after I completed my internship.

Q: What are some important concepts/skills you learned in the program that enhanced your career at Mayo Clinic?

A: At FSCJ, I learned the basic laboratory techniques such as using a manual and automatic pipet ergonomically, measuring, titration, etc. Consequently, already having these skills allowed me to learn more during my internship, rather than spending time learning how to correctly handle and use common equipment. I also learned how to pay attention to detail, how to appropriately use personal protective equipment (PPE) in specific areas and how to handle certain chemicals and reagents.

Q: What are your goals for the future?

A: Finally finish my bachelor's degree in Health Science. I am actually quite happy where I am at the moment and am continually learning. This area of science doesn't stop...it continues to pique my interest and allows me to move or grow into other fields such as the medical area.

What would you tell someone who may be interested in pursuing a career in

Q: Biotechnology?

A: Go for it! What you learn will be with you always and what you think you won't need to learn will surprise you.

Davitte Khauv has been published as a co-author in scientific periodicals, including the Journal of Cellular Biochemistry and The Journal of Biological Chemistry.