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Saima Awan

Saima Awan is one of the emerging researchers of the USPCAS-W, her expertise come in the environmental engineering and beside this she is ambassador at Women Engineers Pakistan and district coordinator at ISEC Pakistan. Saima has also worked as field research associate in different projects at the center. Currently, she has completed her exchange visit with the distinction and has been offered PhD by her mentor Dr. James Ippolito at Colorado State University on completion of her MS research work.

Exchange visits at university of UTAH and Colorado State University arranged by center provide an amazing opportunity to students, wherein they demonstrate their serious dedication and attitude towards research which becomes the crucial factor in earning those PhD scholarships and other future openings. Saima Awan is one of those seven exchange program beneficiaries who while their stay at USA University got an offer of PhD by exhibiting their passionate behavior and commitment for their work.

that I have experienced up until now, in the beginning it was a completely new exposure, and it was no more than surprise for us to see our Director interacting with students directly”.



The work rules are different at the center according to Saima which makes it amazing place to study and work. As she explains:

“This center is a small university in itself. By providing facilities of books, laboratories, learned professors, field

Saima is from a historical town named Nasarpur, near district Tandoallahyar. She completed her early education in the town and for the first time she stepped out from her town to a city for bachelor’s studies. She did bachelors from MUET Jamshoro. She is very much grateful to Allah who blessed her like parents she have. “This is one of the greatest gift your parents can give, the freedom on your decisions and your dreams” Saima shares. “I have been awarded Chinese government scholarship for master studies but the scholarship was not fully funded then I got to know about this center from my seniors. It worked for me and coming here turned out to be the best thing happened in my life. Now, that I am here at the center, I am grateful and do not have any regrets on missing other opportunities. God gives you that, what is best for you”. She adds further, “This center is a lot better than rest of institutes

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exposures, cafeteria, conveyance and many more makes us to complete our goals easily. One more amazing thing about the center is that it brings a great learning exposure to you where you get to know about the industry and so much more. They make sure that you know how things practically happen in the real time as they arrange seminars, meetups and trips with experts and officials for students. I have also participated in these trips. For me my first experience in Thor coal is still part of my memory. I had never been there, it was my first time." After joining center, Saima thinks she has improved as a person; this is also her achievement she believes that she has improved in personality, has more confidence than before and has become efficient in communication because of the diverse exposure provided by the center through seminars, projects, etc. She shared her peculiar experience as:

"This center has gender equity policy (where currently she is serving as an internee) in practice that's why the place is tolerant to girls Saima thinks. Talking about her understanding, she explains how important it is to change our perceptions on girls as society when it comes to their recognition as professionals: "I have been experiencing different perspectives of the society about women gender to work in professional fields along with opposite gender that are so disheartened. There must be some limitations but not the barriers in between. I have also worked in field with my male fellows and had a great exposure. I must say "There are some differences that really suck but don't let them define you". I appreciate the efforts of this center that is emerging the women importance in every sector. Woman is one of the bravest creatures Allah has created, I think if they can run homes so they can run countries as well along with the support of opposite gender while considering gender equity. I think it's high time we should change our thinking on this sensitive matter." Saima has recently completed her US exchange visit at Colorado state university; she finds her experience as

most valuable. She shares the particular experience as: "It was great experience though it was my first time air travel internationally and first experience outside Pakistan. Everyone was happy for my visit to USA and happiest were my parents who always encourage me to be a successful person. I participated in social and cultural activities and made friends from different countries.



I travelled different states of America. I have come back with much technical learning. Saima's visit at USA was full of experiences. Saima says "The behavior, punctuality, sincerity and to pay appreciations to each other was the best learning part of exchange visit". Moreover, it was fascinating and shocking to see how things were appropriate inside their system. Like we went to Washington which is my favorite place as well, there weren't any visible security provided to the place yet it was secure which was amazing. I am also impressed with their transport system and how people react with each other was a totally different experience for me".

She is more focused now on her future goals and wants to contribute in the country's wellbeing as a researcher, social worker or an individual. She further quoted the "Talk about the problems but must think about the solutions at the desk". She is keen to do some action research for the betterment of communities. She has to work on herself still, because there is going to be a long path toward successful future and it's just beginning.

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