

BOE Community Forum Testimony  
On behalf of the Wheaton Cluster  
October 16, 2008

Speaker: Phung Tran, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Biosciences and Health Professions Academy, Wheaton High School.

My name is Phung Tran, I am a tenth grader student at Wheaton High School in the Biosciences and Health Professions Academy. When I entered ninth grade, I enrolled in Honors biology and Principles of Biomedical Science. Principles of Biomedical Science (PBS) is one of four courses that I will take during high school that is offered through project "Lead The Way". In PBS, we read about Henrietta Lacks, an African American women who died of cervical cancer in the 1950s. This interested me about what happens in the cell division process to cause cancer and how the cell lines are created. I made a chromosome splat using HeLa cells from Henrietta Lacks and saw her chromosomes under the microscope. This is an example of something that I learned in PBS that made Biology more interesting and easy to understand. My experiences in the Academy go beyond the classroom. I am attending the sciLIFE conference on Saturday, I have visited Body's The Exhibition, will be going to the Crime and Punishment Museum next week. In addition, I participate in a Saturday morning study group with my fellow AP Biology students. My experiences in the Biosciences Academy are inspiring me to pursue a health related career.