

Local Teen Who Dreams of Becoming an Engineer Job Shadows at Walt Disney World Resort

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL - April 7, 2017 – A Central Florida teenager who aspires to become a computer engineer recently got a glimpse of her dream career after spending a day job shadowing at the most magical place known for merging immersive storytelling with creative technologies.

Tylyiah Andrews, a 17-year old student at Jones High School in Orlando, spent time with a team of Disney engineers learning about how their roles support the operation, as part of an initiative coordinated by Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida. The non-profit chose Disney and four other companies to provide job shadowing experiences for this year's local finalists of the Boys and Girls Clubs National Youth of the Year award. The award honors the nation's most inspiring teens and their stories of leadership, service and academic excellence.

To learn how engineers create the immersive experiences Disney's reputation is built on, the teenager got an in-depth look at DINOSAUR at Disney's Animal Kingdom. Everything from the structure of the building to the landscaping showed her how much detail goes into creating a seamless Guest experience.

"This experience has been amazing because it lets me see what my future could be and gives me the motivation to keep working hard so I can make this a reality," said Tylyiah.

Walt Disney World engineers Sara Gonzales and Charlie Orphan also welcomed the young woman backstage to their "secret" training animation lab where a giant animatronic figure waved to the teen on her command. Her face was instantly filled with wonder.

"Tylyiah asked great questions and showed lots of enthusiasm during her time with us," said Sarah, a Disney software engineer who specializes in animated figures. "Our team was delighted to host this outstanding student who someday could become a scientist, a tech professional or an Imagineer."

This unique job shadowing opportunity continues a 50-year partnership between Walt Disney World Resort and the Boys & Girls Clubs, and demonstrates the company's commitment to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education. Cast Members lead a Robotics team at the Boys & Girls Club's local Disney Clubhouse in Orlando and a new effort beginning this year at the Tupperware Brands Club will focus on teaching math through music.

"Disney has always been there to help in a multitude of ways, whether it's funding for a new club, allowing our members to experience new rides and lands, or setting up an opportunity like this," said Betsy Owens, Director of Marketing and Communications for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida.

Walt Disney World Resort's support of the organization includes: an annual grant of \$150K to support club operations, special projects such as the expansion of the Disney Clubhouse kitchen in Orlando at a value of over \$100K, consistent yearly in-kind donations of over \$100k to support student activities and visits to our

theme parks.

As presenting sponsor of the Youth of the Year Award, Disney is delighted to help inspire kids to create the futures they imagine.