

Name: Patricia Ochonski
Year of Graduation: 2011
Current School: The Pennsylvania State University
Major: Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences

I never realized how important the program was until I met with my college adviser, who has been teaching and advising students for 47 years and is the head of my major. He looked at all the UCONN Early College Experience classes listed on my transcript and the long list of events I had participated in through the Ag program, and said that programs such as ours really make students stand out on their college applications for taking the effort to "jump-start" their education in agriculture.

My four years in the program are something I will never forget. It provided me with the resources and opportunities to explore (and finally chose) my intended career goal, a sense of community that is hard to find in a school as big as Westhill, challenging college-level courses that prepared me for the work load I would face in the future, and memories and friendships that will surely stick with me for the rest of my life. It is something that I would gladly do again a hundred times over.