

Dr. Gefei Qian
Director
The National Graphene Research
and Development Center
January 8, 2017

RE: On Recent Posts on Cyberspace

Dear Parents in TJ Community and Beyond,

Thank you for your support.

There are several posts on tjToday, facebook.com, reddit.com and wordpress.com, expressing frustration for missing out our summer research program. Some even call names and implicitly call for "vigilante justice".

As I know, the original author on the tjToday, landed a research opportunity at George Mason University through family connections designing a mobile app displaying some GIS information. The project was awarded a Siemens Semifinalist last year. They were very happy of the result, until learning that we had students going to regional.

That is fine because the author admitted that students in our program did their work on their own. Later, an excerpts of the article appeared on anonymous TJVents Facebook account. Another post follows, even calling names.

This is ok. You cannot prevent trash people from throwing trashes on you. Then, another post by Angela Ma'15 published on wordpress.com bragging on her book published during her time at TJ while criticizing other EC activities as a shortcut to colleges.

That is fine as well. Those are kids. However, it shocked me that a prominent local figure whose daughter participated our program also called his daughter's project as "cheating". Being furious of insults on my student, I followed with clarification that his daughter carried out the research, wrote the report and submitted for competitions all on her own. Then he conceded to state that "it is others of suspicious of cheating".

As for those who criticize our program, I cannot speculate on their mindsets. Envy could play a role. By the way, I recommended HP Envy laptop for research in our program. High school student research has been there for years, long before TJ became TJHSST. However, most of the time, those opportunities are only reserved to certain students with connections, or students with superior profiles. In that aspect, Asians are in inferior positions. The game was changed ever since we started our summer program. More and more talented students were provided professional training on research through our program.

Another aspect attacked is the fee we charge. In my opinion, it is a question of view on knowledge and priority. As one parent described, "We all know the value of knowledge. However, some hesitates when paying for it". There isn't much to talk about the fee. As a matter of fact, we have dismissed several students whose parents were willing to pay without students doing the research. On money side, each year we rewarded students with thousands of dollars for their excellent work during the program.

TJHSST is a great school where nerds are protected while nerds bullied in other places. We have a strong emotional tie to the school. That is why after several years of successful run of our program, Dr. Glazer recruited Dr. Luo to TJ intending to improve research environment at TJ.

Our program has attracted talents from surrounding areas. We even reach out to communities in Texas, California and New York. We also reach out Indian communities. In the near future, we are going to open a robotics program supported by a robot manufacture. Our education program is thriving.

We have given seminars about our program and held symposiums open to the public. I will attend TJ Chinese Lunar New Year party next Saturday organized by TJ Partnership fund. Should you have questions about our program, I will be happy to communicate with you during the event.

Happy Lunar New Year

Sincerely,

Dr. Gefei Qian
Director of NGRD