

The ARM Program offers great opportunities to students who want to learn about atmospheric science in a hands-on environment. Student intern Javier Ramirez took advantage of the chance to learn more about the TWP program when he went to work with ARM scientist Bill Porch last summer. Here's what Javier has to say.

**Q: What university did you attend and what did you major in?**

**A:** Presently, I am attending the University of Puerto Rico and I am majoring in chemistry with a minor in math.

**Q: How did you get involved with TWP?**

**A:** During the spring semester I looked through the Internet for summer internships in chemistry and I found the Global Change Educational Program (GCEP). This is a program funded by the Department of Energy that provides students majoring in science and engineering the opportunity to do research in atmospheric sciences. GCEP sent me a list of mentors for whom I could work for and I choose William Porch who works at TWP.

**Q: What interests you about atmospheric science and TWP?**

**A:** I became interested in atmospheric science because I did a lot of reading about global warming issues and the effects of greenhouse gases in my environmental chemistry class. In this class, I learned all about global warming and the greenhouse effect and I became concerned about air pollution problems. I thought that maybe someday I could do something to help solve this problem. What interests me about TWP is the instruments used to make atmospheric measurements and the data obtained from them. From the data obtained in the Western Pacific Islands and the research done at TWP we can learn a lot about Global Climate Change.

**Q: What have you been working on while you have been at TWP? How does your work contribute to the TWP Program?**

**A:** Right now I am doing research on the air pollution of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico, like Manus and Nauru, is a small tropical island but this one is located in the



*Student intern Javier Ramirez works with ARM scientist Bill Porch on the development of computer models that can predict the concentration of air pollutants in the atmosphere and its effect in regional and global warming.*

Atlantic Ocean. My goals for this summer are to obtain as much meteorological and geographic data for Puerto Rico as possible to start the development of computer models that can predict the concentration of air pollutants in the atmosphere and its effect in regional and global warming. In the future my work could help TWP in the development of computer models for the islands in the Pacific to predict their meteorology and their effect in climate change.

**Q: Do you have any advice for potential atmospheric scientists?**

**A:** Read as much you can about atmospheric sciences in books and scientific journals. If you have access to the Internet use it because it is the best tool for scientific material. If you are interested in studying atmospheric sciences do not be afraid to travel far away to a university that gives you the opportunity. Look on the Internet for opportunities to study in the US or other countries.

**Q: What has it been like working in the United States?**

**A:** It has been a wonderful experience because I've had the opportunity learn a lot more about atmospheric sciences and I have been able to meet a lot of scientists in this field.