

Kamakshee Kuchhal

2023 CARTHA Fellow

Kamakshee is a junior at West High School in Iowa City, studying a plethora of her interests such as AP Physics and AP Seminar. She is involved in many extracurricular activities along with school, such as the 2022 State Semi-Finalist for Policy Debate and copy editor for the well-renowned school newspaper, West Side Story. As a current data analyst Space & Physics intern at the University of Iowa, she hopes to major in astrophysics in the future.

Through hours of community service at the local Children's Museum and Food Pantry, Kamakshee enjoys giving back to the community. As current co-president of volunteering club 1440 Interact/Rotary, she cultivates an environment and team-building focused on the doing of greater good.

Given her multifaceted talents and aspirational goals in science, writing, and community, Kamakshee was designated as a CARTHA Fellow in 2023.

Kamakshee's superbly efficient editing skills have proved helpful to CARTHA's partners (such as the edits to the draft press release about the March 2023 Indian Harvest Festival organized by the India Association of Iowa City Area). She will also help with storytelling initiatives involving interviews with Carthans (especially scientists speaking with high schoolers about what motivates scientists and how they seek support and resources in their scientific careers). As a CARTHA Fellow herself, Kamakshee will be given the opportunity to interview other new and previous CARTHA Fellows (e.g., 2006 CARTHA Fellow Ajailiu Niumai, now a Sociology Professor at the University of Hyderabad, India, who will be visiting Iowa City in Fall 2023). From time to time, Kamakshee will participate as moderator at CARTHA Memory Music Cafe events being planned for Summer/Fall 2023 as intergenerational conversations at rural libraries and senior living centers.