



JAY CAPERS staff photographer

Justyce Sisson, 11, of Rochester carefully checks the screen for artifacts as part of the Rochester Young Scholars Academy at SUNY Geneseo. The students also get to experience life on a college campus.

# Students discover they really dig archaeology

**BENNETT J. LOUDON**

STAFF WRITER

**GENESEO** — Educators hope that a summer camp at the State University College at Geneseo will show some middle school students that a post-secondary education is within their reach.

And the seventh- and eighth-graders are getting the point.

During the first half of the two-week archaeology-themed Rochester Young Scholars Academy at Geneseo, the youths found four Native American arrowheads that could be as much as 5,000 years old.

"I love doing archaeology. It's really cool. You're finding things nobody else has probably ever seen," Veronica Sickler, 12, said a moment after she uncovered one of the inch-long flint arrowheads Friday.

The 60 students from the Rochester School District are living in college dorms during the two-week session.

They work in teams, with some sifting through the soil at the dig site on the campus while others are analyzing found items in a laboratory.

And some students are inter-



**Veronica**



**Krumrine**



**Diamond**



**Delehanty**

viewing community residents and leaders about their views on whether the dig site should be off-limits to future development.

Next week, the students will pull together all of their research to create a museum exhibit.

The arrowheads were probably the most exciting discovery, although the students also have found broken rocks used in fire pits and bits of pottery. All the relics apparently are remnants of a civilization that lived in the area long before the Iroquois nations, said Kristi Krumrine, adjunct professor of anthropology at SUNY Geneseo.

Krumrine said she estimated the age of the arrowheads based on

## To learn more

For blogs, pictures and more information about the Rochester Young Scholars Academy at Geneseo, go to <http://rysag.geneseo.edu>.

their resemblance to others dated through scientific tests.

Diamond Hancock, 13, didn't care much about archaeology before attending the camp.

"Now that I've tried it, it's really fun and exciting. I like that I get to learn stuff from the past," she said.

Dan Delehanty, an East High School history teacher working at the camp, said the camp isn't just about teaching archaeology.

"Most important is exposure to a college campus. Our students need to set the goal now of going to college and they need to understand the requirements and rigors of academic life," Delehanty said.

The second goal is to have fun while developing academic skills with hands-on learning in a real-world scenario.

The arrowheads will stay with the archaeology department for possible future research. The dig site, which is being thoroughly documented, will be closed after the camp and could be reopened in the future. □

BLLOUDON@DemocratandChronicle.com