Counselors say CHHS student first to be accepted to Harvard

Chino Hills High senior Jack "Korbin" Kelley is the first student at the school to be accepted into Harvard University, according to longtime counselors at the campus.

Jack, 18, the son of Brent and Kelley Kelley of Chino Hills, has also been accepted into six other colleges: Cornell, Dartmouth, Rice, Johns Hopkins, UCLA, and University of California, San Diego.

Jack, who recently returned from a trip to Harvard, hopes to go there and major in bio-engineering. He is interested in developing a tissue-based engineered heart valve that will function more like a normal valve. "If we can better the tools we give doctors, we can save more lives," Jack said on his decision to pursue medical engineering research rather than become a doctor.

The Chino Hills High senior learned he had been accepted to Harvard in late March while checking an online portal from the university. "I never would have expected it," Jack said. "Out of 100 kids who applied, less than three get in. I was definitely shocked. Pretty much, my whole life changed in one day."

He said Harvard has been his dream school since he was in fourth grade. "It will provide me with a better life," he said.

At Chino Hills High, he has served as a Black Student Union officer, on the Let It Be Foundation's Junior Advisory Board that helps families of children with serious medical conditions, and participated in track and field, and cross country.

Outside of school, he tutors students in math and science.

Jack also plans to work this summer on a website to help students who are applying for college. He has applied for a summer internship with Google.

When Jack's family was preparing to move from Ohio to California, Jack's mother did several hours of research to find a high school that would intellectually challenge her son. Mrs. Kelley said she looked at test scores, distinction recognition, and several other factors before deciding that Chino Hills High would be the right fit for Jack.