

Statement of Purpose

I take my education extremely seriously, not only for myself and my future but because of my family as well. I am extremely privileged to have been able to attend highschool and be involved with clubs and organizations there, as well as attending Northern Arizona University where I completed my bachelor's degree in Environmental and Sustainability Studies, along with a minor in Biology. Many circumstances and people have not only inspired me to try my best to excel academically, but also to apply to a Master's program. Although I do try my best academically, I occasionally still have that voice in the back of my head trying to doubt myself and making me feel so small. That all started my junior year of highschool in my AP Biology course. It was coming towards the end of the first week of school and at that point we still did not have our textbooks, but my teacher saw it fit to give us a lengthy test. To no surprise, a lot of us failed since we not only did not have the necessary materials but a lot of us have not taken Biology since our freshman year. My score was a 62%, my two friends got a 63% and a 64%. Later that day, my mom gets an email from that same teacher saying he made the decision to administratively drop me from the class due to my score. His reasoning was "Since she failed this test, it is only going to get harder from here on out", "She's going to hold herself and the class back", and my favorite "She should give up on science while she's ahead". Instead of taking that and sulking in sorrow, I took that and made it my mission to show everyone just how serious I am about my education and to show I can do exactly what I put my mind to, no matter the hardships or any degree of difficulty ; spoiler alert,I did just that. I had the opportunity this past summer to work for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife in the Ocean Sampling Program as a Scientific Technician. The experience I gained from working in the field at the Westport Marina, which is where I was stationed at, was out of this world! I learned how to speciate multiple species of Rockfish including ones that were illegal to retain, and how to

speciate salmon. Salmon was where it got more tedious, but I loved it. With salmon I learned how to retrieve a Coded Wire Tag and take DNA specifically from Chinook. I interacted with the public everyday whether that was with anglers and interviewing them, or sampling fish off a charter. My fieldwork experience and education thus far has really solidified for me what I want for my future. I believe a Master's in Environmental Studies will be a key factor in aiding me in my future career hopefully with Fish and Wildlife once again and conduct research and help with public outreach programs for environmental education as well as working with surrounding Tribes. I also believe that this program will be a key in aiding me in research, areas I would be interested in are analysis, climate science, and restoration ecology. Which is something I have always dreamed of doing, but I fear that my anxiety and imposter syndrome got in the way of that. Now, I am more than ready to continue and further my education to help the environment as it has helped and sustained me.