



2017 Department of Biology Awards

DAVID B. DROWN SCHOLARSHIP FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP

Tanner Christensen, Public Health

My particular interest in science and Public Health has been nurtured through my adolescent years where nutrition and health have been a foundation of lifestyle. My family raised me on a small farm in Northern Utah and I was given big responsibilities beginning at a young age. I provided the needed care of the crops and realized the positive impact they have to our community and country. Persistence and perseverance learned while young have taught me how to grind through difficult challenges.

When away from the plow, sports were my life. Being involved in sports became my way of loving being a leader and communicating with others. Soccer, Wrestling, and Cross Country all brought exceptional satisfaction during high school as I was chosen to be Varsity Captain during 1 or more seasons for each sport. As Senior Class President, I built many great relationships and consider it to be a great accomplishment while being so actively involved in academics and athletics.

Upon completion of high school, I was offered a scholarship to attend Utah State. As an Aggie, I have been recognized a part of the College of Science Dean's List and currently maintain a 3.72 cumulative GPA. My participation at Utah State includes being chosen as an Undergraduate Writing Fellow for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, member of the USU American Industrial Hygiene Association student chapter and National ACGIH member.

Immediately following high school graduation, I left on a two-year LDS church service mission to serve in Central America in the countries of El Salvador, Belize and Guatemala. Aside from learning Spanish and Caribbean Creole, my understanding of the importance of serving others solidified, as well as the need for better accessible nutrition and care. Today, I am an active leader in the Boy Scouts of America, and an Undergraduate Researcher for USU Nutrition Extension. In both settings I incorporate my Spanish I have learned to facilitate the lives of community members, so they can participate in local activities and make healthier choices daily.

During my free time I enjoy soccer, hiking, running and cooking with my wife. We are training to run our first marathon together this summer. She fuels me with the energy to be my best, and to work hard for what I want in life. We enjoy spontaneous adventures, including spur of the moment trips to the canyon, camping and to visit relatives.

As I complete my undergraduate studies at Utah State, my goal is to finish with a 3.75 GPA and to continue my involvement within local organizations. My aspiration for a future career includes certifying as a Certified Industrial Hygienist and then furthering my career by pursuing a Master's degree in Public Health or Health Care Administration.