



## 2017 Department of Biology Awards

### JOSEPH K.-K. LI SCHOLARSHIP

*Taryn Rodman, Biology*

My name is Taryn Rodman. I was born on April 9<sup>th</sup> 1997 in Salt Lake City Utah. I have lived my whole life in Utah with my parents and younger brother.

I have always loved science, especially biology. I have always worked hard and aimed to do well in school. School is always one of my top priorities. Graduating at the top fifteen percent of my class with an

advanced honor diploma, I was able to be accepted into all of the colleges I applied to.

At first, I thought I wanted to go to school and study biology to become a doctor, but I soon realized that I love research. From that and the fact I don't like other people's blood, I decided I wanted to study biology but to go into the research fields instead, more specifically the environmental research field. When choosing what college to attend, I thought long and hard and in the end made the decision to where I will have the greatest research opportunities, here at Utah State. I was right, within the first few months I was here I was able to be involve with graduate student Sammy Cowell and Dr. Kim Sullivan's woodpecker research lab. I have been researching with them for the past year and a half and I have loved every second of it. Through this research I have had many opportunities to present our research, at the SRS, UCUR, ROCH etc. I have also had many opportunities to do things that I have never had even thought of doing, like applying for grants or knowing so many different birds. I have loved being able to attend school at Utah State not just for the school, but for all of the experiences and opportunities that come with it.

I am now a sophomore and will be going into my junior year in the fall. I plan to graduate in the spring of 2019 and then obtain my master's degree while doing more research along the way.

It has always been important for me to work hard and do my best in school so I could succeed academically. By doing so I have received scholarships, like the USU merit scholarship, Regent's Scholarship, and a NASA space grant, and the summer URCO grant, that have let me focus on my academic career and succeed here at USU and will help me in my future endeavors.

