



*John R. Simmons Scholarship*

**Ashli Hunter**

Biology with a Cellular/Molecular Emphasis, Junior

A few things about me:

Studying Cellular/Molecular Biology at Utah State has provided remarkable experiences. Next fall, I will be continuing my educational journey as a junior working towards graduating in the spring of 2017 with honors. In addition to my studies, I have had the opportunity to be involved in extracurricular activities and clubs on campus. I enjoy playing intramural volleyball and basketball, dancing at the Fun Park with the swing club, attending theatrical performances, and reading a good book. Over the last two years, my awareness has been enhanced as I have had the opportunity to work as a laboratory research assistant in Dr. Benninghoff's lab, where I have learned about cancer, obesity, and nutrition. Currently I am assisting with a study focusing on the effects of tart cherry anthocyanins on colon cancer in a mouse model. I look forward to presenting at a future undergraduate research symposium. This summer I plan to increase my laboratory research experience. My previous and current laboratory experience at Utah State has sparked my interest in medical research. The education provided at Utah State will assist me in my goal to continue pursuing my education at a graduate school. In the future, I hope to increase our understanding of human genetics and health, as I participate in research and humanitarian work.

