

2020 Department of Biology Awards

IVAN G. PALMBLAD SCHOLARSHIP

Audrey Lidgard, Cellular and Molecular Biology



As a rising senior, I have learned so much already at USU. I have learned to use my undergraduate degree to explore anything and everything I find interesting. I am majoring in biology with an emphasis in molecular and cellular biology because I love anything related to genetics (especially genetic modification). I am minoring in chemistry, French, and yoga studies to round out my interests and keep my mental health in check. I also currently conduct research under Dr. Susannah French studying lizard ecology and physiology. With the help of an amazing team under Dr. French, I received an Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities (URCO) Grant to study the effect of temperature on the stress response of lizards in Southern Utah. From the tiniest genome, to the lizards I study, all of my interests coincide with my passion of fighting climate change. I am yet to narrow down exactly what I want to do, but I have no doubt my future will involve research combatting this global issue. I am looking forward to applying myself to a graduate program and eventual PhD in whatever field I end up choosing. I am currently serving as a College of Science Ambassador and I love interacting with future Aggie Scientists at open houses and other events. Along with being an ambassador, I am an active member of the Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources (SOSNR) where I have served as the Co-President as well as the Director of Education. The club is oriented toward protecting nature through outreach, political engagement, volunteering, and spending time in the outdoors. This club has given me a voice to protect the planet, leadership opportunities, and amazing friendships. To relax and rejuvenate, you can find me outside skiing, snowboarding, practicing yoga, hiking, and camping. If I'm not outside, I'm watching movies with my cat Vonnegut.