

2020 Department of Biology Awards

GORDON J. CHRISTENSEN SCHOLARSHIP

Will Sims, Human Biology



In my nearly 21 years here on Earth I have already seen and had some hardships and barriers that I have had to go through to get where I am today. I know this is not unique to me as everyone passes through hard times. I do, however, feel that how I have handled these trials is unique. Halfway through my junior year of high school I tore my Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) playing basketball. I was no longer able to play any kind of athletics for the next 8 months. I decided to attack the situation instead of letting it drive me into a hole of

despair. I used the time that I would have spent on the basketball court or on the racetrack helping my teammates become better. For basketball I became a mentor for the underclassmen that took my place on the team. In track I became the coach for hurdles (my best event). I found during this time my love for being a leader and helping others around me become better. A thing which looking back 6 months prior I had no idea existed. I have since re torn my ACL and am currently rehabilitating from that injury and along the road I have had numerous other injuries that have at times hindered my ability to do the things I that I love. I do not think it is the events that happen in our lives that define us, rather it is how we respond to these events that determines our destiny and course in life. I have control over me and that is all. Every day as I get out of bed, I chose to be optimistic and look for how I can better my situation. I have learned to attack life and ALL the opportunities that come my way, even the ones that do not look like much of an opportunity. I have this approach to life because I know that everything can change in an instant. The only way I have found to keep moving forward with my life is to find the things I can do and learn and eventually excel in that aspect. My trials have been my biggest stumbling block but also lay the foundation for my future.