

## 2017 Department of Biology Awards

JAY R. WEST AND LORRAINE M. WEST ENDOWED  
SCHOLARSHIP

*Tanner Nielsen, Biology*



I am a local product, born and raised here in Cache Valley. I am now completing my third year at Utah State majoring in biology. In the coming months, I will be taking the MCAT and applying to medical school shortly after. My fascination with medicine and the human body began long before I arrived at USU, but the experiences I have acquired here have strongly reaffirmed my desire of becoming a physician.

During my time at Utah State I have had many wonderful opportunities. Over spring break I was lucky enough to travel to Tijuana, Mexico with other pre-med students on a medical service mission. We were able to provide service to the community, shadow doctors, and gain valuable insight into the Mexican healthcare system. Outside of class, I work as an Advanced EMT (AEMT) where I am able to apply my knowledge and skills to a wide array of medical emergencies. I also conduct undergraduate research in the Shahan Lab, studying the effects of addiction and relapse of various drugs. In addition, I currently serve as a UTA for human anatomy and will be teaching human dissection next fall. In my free time, I love to play basketball, ski, camp, and be outdoors.

This upcoming year I look forward to serving my peers as president of the Pre-Med Club. I have many goals I intend to accomplish and earning this scholarship will empower me to do so. Again, I am deeply honored to receive the Jay R. West and Lorraine M. West Endowed Scholarship for the 2017-18 school year. This award will enable me to take full advantage of all the opportunities this university has to offer, as well as contribute towards my advancement in pursuing a future career in medicine.