



*WESTON R. AND JOLAYNE INNES SCHOLARSHIP*

**MAKDA GEBRE**  
BIOLOGY, SENIOR

A few things about me:

I was born in October 1991 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and came to the United States in January of 2010 after high school. I am now a senior majoring in Molecular/Cellular Biology. My minors include Chemistry and Women and Gender studies. I plan on graduating in December 2015 with departmental honors as an undergraduate research scholar and a service learning scholar. After graduation I plan to earn my MD/PHD in gynecology and obstetrics, infant, maternal and fetal medicine, and international public health policy. My undergraduate experiences in research, teaching, leadership and service at USU have greatly contributed towards my personal and career development. Starting my freshman year, I have earned research experience in fields of psychology, biochemistry, and epigenetics. I now work at the Institute of Antiviral Research as a research technician and have been working there for the past two years. I have written proposals and received grants including the College of Science minigrant and the Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunity. I have also presented my research at the Biology Undergraduate Research Symposium, Student Show Case, Utah Conference of Undergraduate Research and National Conference on Undergraduate Research. I have served as an undergraduate teaching fellow and teaching assistant in Human Anatomy, Advanced Human Physiology and Human Dissection. This year, I was honored to receive the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Fellow of the year award. I have held leadership positions in clubs such as Women in Science and Medicine and Golden Key International Honor Society. Among my service experiences, my service expedition to the world's second largest slum in Africa was the most influential. It fueled my passion towards improving health care in impoverished communities. I am very passionate about promoting maternal health in the rural parts of developing countries and hope to someday be able to contribute to global health development.

