

Ardice Fogelsong

Year in School: 12

School Name: Buhl High School

State: Idaho

A Career that Drives Me:

It is easier for some individuals to find their drive than it is for others, and while I have always been a driven and dedicated in my school, work, and community service clubs, finding the perfect way to use my ambition to drive my future career has been quite an ordeal. I have known for a long time that I have a drive for asking questions and finding the answers to those questions in a logical manner, which is why I have immersed myself in several scientific fields.

I immersed myself in veterinary medicine, going even as far as to job shadow at a local veterinary clinic about three days a week for a year. During that year, I learned a lot about veterinary medicine, but more importantly, I learned that a career in veterinary medicine was not for me. Instead of being upset that I had wasted my time in an area of science that I was not suited for, I took it as a learning experience, and I have been driven to use this same method of immersion and optimism to drive all of my endeavours.

After that year, I took my first high school chemistry class, and I was astounded by the depth of explanation that the study of chemistry provided for me. My first chemistry class, and first chemistry teacher, allowed me to immerse myself in a field of science that explored the fascinating and intricate properties of matter. It did not take me long to decide that chemistry was what I wanted to dedicate myself to.

When my chemistry class ended, I was still driven to achieve more understanding, more experimentation, more discovery, but my high school did not offer any other chemistry classes on campus. With the help of a school counselor, I found a dual credit chemistry class that could help me keep my chemistry knowledge fresh and my fascination alive. I am having a lot of fun in my online class, and I cannot wait to take chemistry classes at Idaho State University next year.

As my knowledge of chemistry is just beginning to blossom, so has my realization of how versatile the field chemistry is. Almost every industry needs chemists, and because of this, there is a lot of specialization that can be pursued within chemistry. One specific industry that has peaked my interest is formulation chemistry. The thought of people using products that I helped create to make their lives easier and better is very attractive to me. However, within formulation chemistry, there is still more specialization to be explored.

The future is uncertain, and I am still in the process of narrowing down my options for a career in chemistry, but as I go through life, immersing myself in different specialized areas of chemical engineering, I will keep in mind my experiences in job shadowing, my first chemistry class, and the people who have helped me along the way to finding what drives me.