

Kayla, Ward
12th grade
Snake River High School, Idaho

What Drives Me?

Throughout the many experiences and opportunities I have had, one of the main sources of the joy and fulfillment I have felt has come from my experiences related to my schooling and education. I have always loved attending school and being able to push myself to learn new things. In addition to my love for school, another element of my interest and passion is derived from my family's history in agriculture and ranching. As a result, I plan to attend Utah State University. There, a bachelor's in Agribusiness with a minor in crop biotechnology, will be the first step on my path to becoming a college professor in an agricultural field of study.

Throughout the many opportunities I have been blessed with, one of the most influential situations I have experienced was working on my family's farm and ranch. I have grown up being responsible, from a young age, to manage tasks that adults are usually entrusted to. Although it hasn't been easy, I have helped my family by fixing fences, operating equipment, repairing irrigation systems, as well as by undertaking the tasks necessary to ensure the overall health and success of our cow herd. I have learned the importance of being responsible, working hard, and always trying my best, no matter how difficult things may be. Having the opportunity to grow up on my family's farm and ranch has allowed me to gain not only an understanding of the importance of displaying a determined work ethic, but also an appreciation, passion, and drive for agriculture and its impact on the world. My experience on my family's farm and ranch helped me realize just how important the agriculture industry is, allowing me to determine that I want to spend my career educating future generations of agriculture's increasing importance. I

am driven by my passion for agriculture, my family's history, and my desire to help others understand and appreciate the things that I find to be valuable.

In addition, throughout my education, I've always been excited by the myriad of different things I've been able to learn. However, some of the experiences that really captivated my interest and drove my desire to pursue my career path were biological processes I explored throughout AP biology, my studies of Trace Genomics and soil DNA testing in FFA, as well as the things I learned while participating in my high school's Farm and Agribusiness Management team. The interest and passion I have for education, biotechnology, and agricultural business principles, have all motivated my desire to pursue the major that I have selected. The many opportunities and impactful experiences I have undergone, have allowed me to both determine my projected career path, and obtain the necessary skills, values, and drive that will help me pursue my future goals. Not only would this scholarship provide a significant advantage in allowing me to meet the financial commitments required to pursue my desired career, this generous opportunity would also help me further expand my abilities, involvement, and influence.