

Landon Baiardo

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### What Drives Me

Hi, my name is Landon Baiardo, and what drives me now is the desire to pursue justice through science. My passion for forensics truly took shape when I joined my school's Mock Trial team. Serving primarily as an expert witness opened my eyes to the critical role scientific evidence plays in the courtroom. I realized that facts, data, and forensic analysis can determine the outcome of a case and give victims a voice. That experience sparked something in me, and I don't just want to learn science; I want to use it to make a real difference.

Through the mock trial, I began to understand how the justice system functions and how much it depends on reliable evidence. I saw how expert testimony could clarify confusion and bring truth to light. That realization motivates me to pursue a career in forensics with a medical lab or biology degree from the University of New Mexico. I want to learn how to test DNA, analyze crime scenes, and provide the kind of precise, ethical work that investigators and courts rely on.

Living in Albuquerque, I am aware that crime continues to affect our community. Knowing that many violent crimes do not result in arrests strengthens my drive to contribute solutions. I believe offenders should be held accountable, and victims deserve closure. My goal is to use education and scientific training to help improve outcomes and support justice in my community.

My love for science and problem-solving fuels this ambition. I have maintained a 3.9 GPA while challenging myself academically, and I enjoy puzzles, chess, and reading about complex scientific theories by Stephen Hawking and Brian Cox. I am drawn to situations that require patience, critical thinking, and attention to detail, which are qualities essential in forensic science. As a soccer team captain for three years and an active member of National Honor Society, I have also learned leadership, responsibility, and teamwork.

What drives me now is the opportunity to combine science, integrity, and service. I am driven by the belief that careful scientific work can bring truth forward and make communities safer. I hope not only to build a career in forensics but also to inspire other students who share an interest in science and justice. I am committed to using my skills to serve others and to pursue truth wherever it leads. Thank you for your consideration.