

My passion for the environment goes as far back as I can remember as a kid, growing up in Boulder County, one of the most environmentally conscious areas of the United States, nature's beauty and importance was always right in front of me. I was always encouraged by my teachers and parents to respect and protect the natural world, but what really inspired me to pursue a career in the environment was a trip I took to Peru. We had visited this crystal clear, blue waterfall in the middle of the rainforest, and I remember thinking it was one of the most beautiful things I had seen in my life. Afterwards we drove downstream, and I was devastated by what I saw. People were shoveling trash into the river, stray dogs were eating plastic scraps, and people were using the water to go to the bathroom. It didn't sit right with me that this was how nature was being treated, but also that this was the only option for people to get rid of trash in their town. When I found out that these were the types of problems that environmental engineers solve, I knew that was my calling.

My desire is to help leave this world better than I found it through creating sustainable and equitable solutions to the world's problems. Pursing my Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering and my Professional Master's degree in Global Engineering has enabled me to learn more about what it means to be a globally thinking engineer and gain greater insight into the intersectionality between the environment, project management, field methods, humanitarian aid, WASH, energy and so much more. With this educational background, I plan to focus my career in waste management and environmental justice. Nearly everything we do generates waste in one form or another and so we need sustainable solutions for how to handle this waste. Additionally, for far too long, the impact of environmental decisions on underserved communities has not been considered enough, especially when it comes to the impacts of waste.

This scholarship and year-long membership from the Colorado Environmental Management Society will go a long way in helping me as I become a part of the next generation of environmental leaders and innovators working towards a better future for all.