



Hello

A Bit About Me

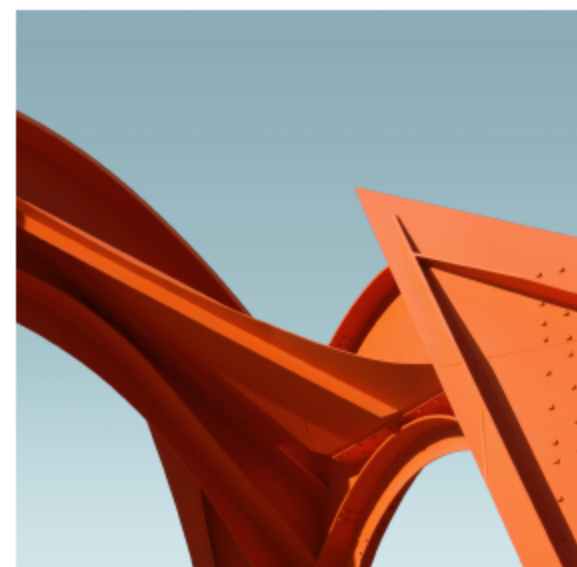
Hello, my name is Kendall Solomon. I am an Honors Student pursuing a degree in Biotechnology. My expected graduation is May 2024.

Mission Statement: To make a positive impact on the lives of others by asking, exploring, and answering questions in biotechnology and beyond. While growing as a leader and engaging with people from all backgrounds and cultures.

[Honors](#)

[About Me](#)

Directory



Leadership

First Year Honors Learning Community; Community Advisor

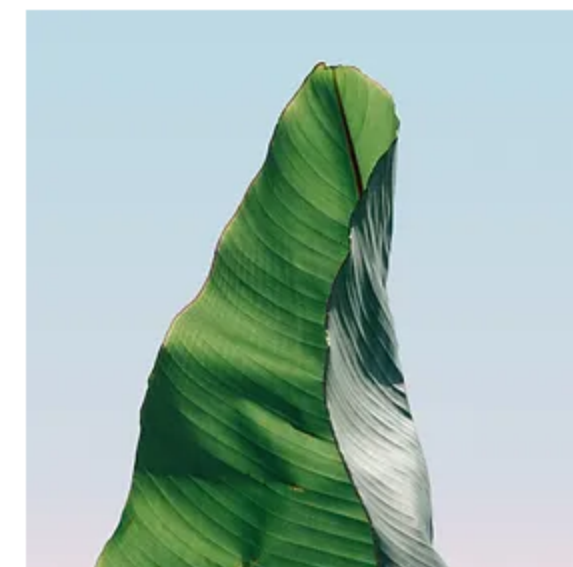
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Research

SIT Independent Research Project; Bacterial Research; SIT Course Work

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Intercultural Engagement

SIT Study Abroad Home Stays and Language Experience

[Read](#)



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

HONORS

HONORS PROGRAM

"Honors students are committed to developing in several competency areas such as leadership, research, and intercultural engagement. The program provides class experiences designed to support competency development and a variety of co-curricular activities to enrich their growth. Students demonstrate their emerging competencies through electronic portfolios in which they document their activities and engage in meaningful reflection about their learning. The Honors Program challenges students to move outside of their comfort zones and to think critically about the world and their personal contributions to the communities in which they live." -[from Honors Webpage](#)

[Why Honors 375](#)

[Why Honors 475](#)

Competencies

Students in the Honors Program will develop their skills and abilities within three competency areas



Leadership

Upon graduation, students will utilize personal leadership values and strengths in a team environment toward a common goal

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Research, Scholarly, & Creative Activity

Upon graduation, students will access and utilize credible information to answer research questions. Students will complete and present an undergraduate research, scholarly, or creative project as part of their competency development.

[Read](#)



Intercultural Engagement

Upon graduation, students will learn more about their own culture and develop an understanding of different cultural perspectives, ultimately establishing their own framework for intercultural engagement.

[Read](#)

Leadership

"Upon graduation, students will utilize personal leadership values and strengths in a team environment toward a common goal"



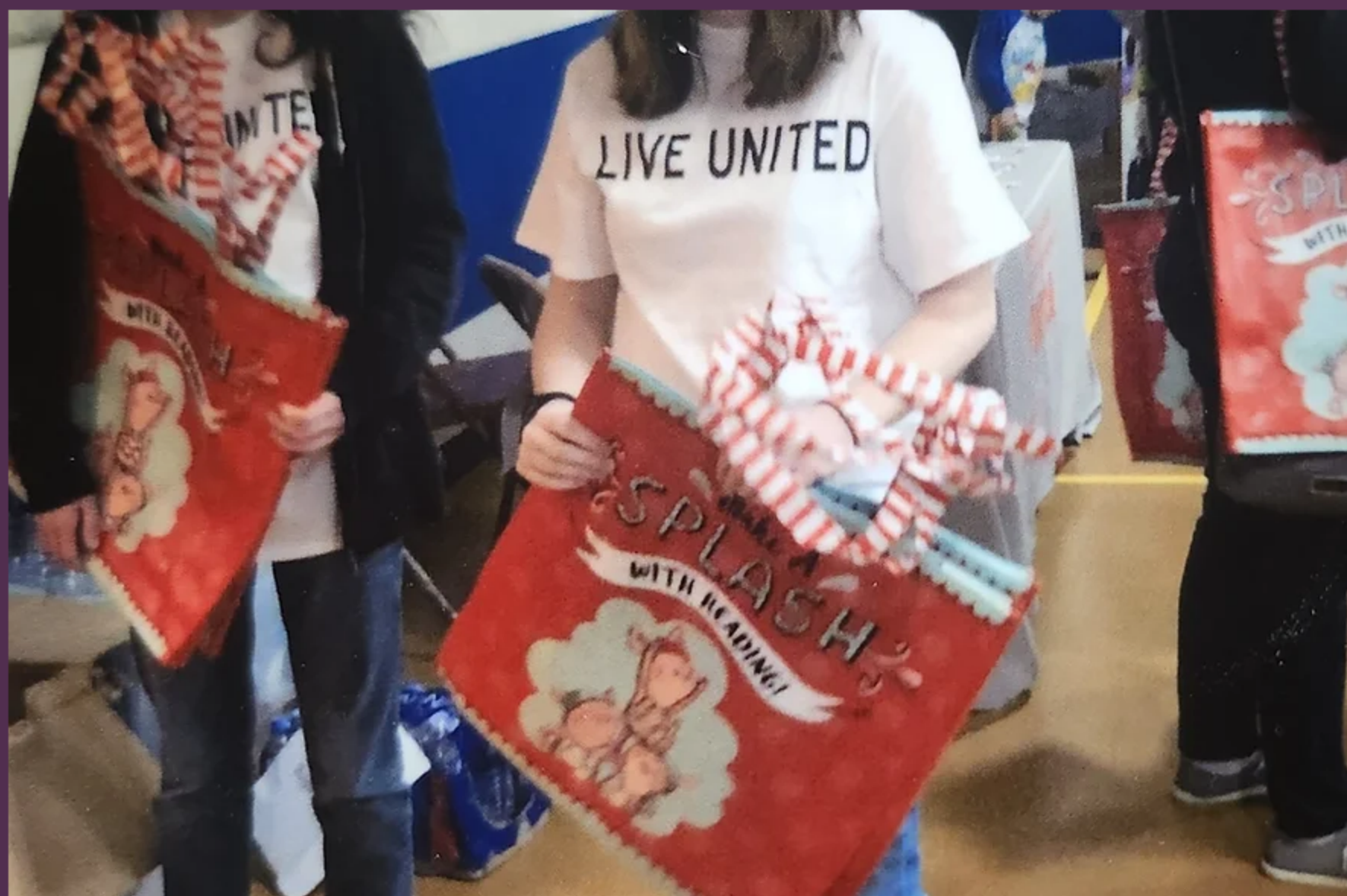
Community Advisor

Leadership Application

I acted as a Community Advisor (CA) for two academic years. In this role, I lived on campus and supported students emotionally, socially, and academically while fostering community through programming events. Through my leadership approach rooted in strategic thinking and problem-solving, I balanced being an authority figure and a friend. I learned valuable communication, adaptability, and teamwork lessons from organizing floor events and large hall gatherings. I found the importance of empowering residents to become leaders, culminating in solidifying my leadership style focused on creating safe, empowered communities through collaboration and growth.

[Refelction](#)

[Artifact](#)



Honors Learning Community

Leadership Development

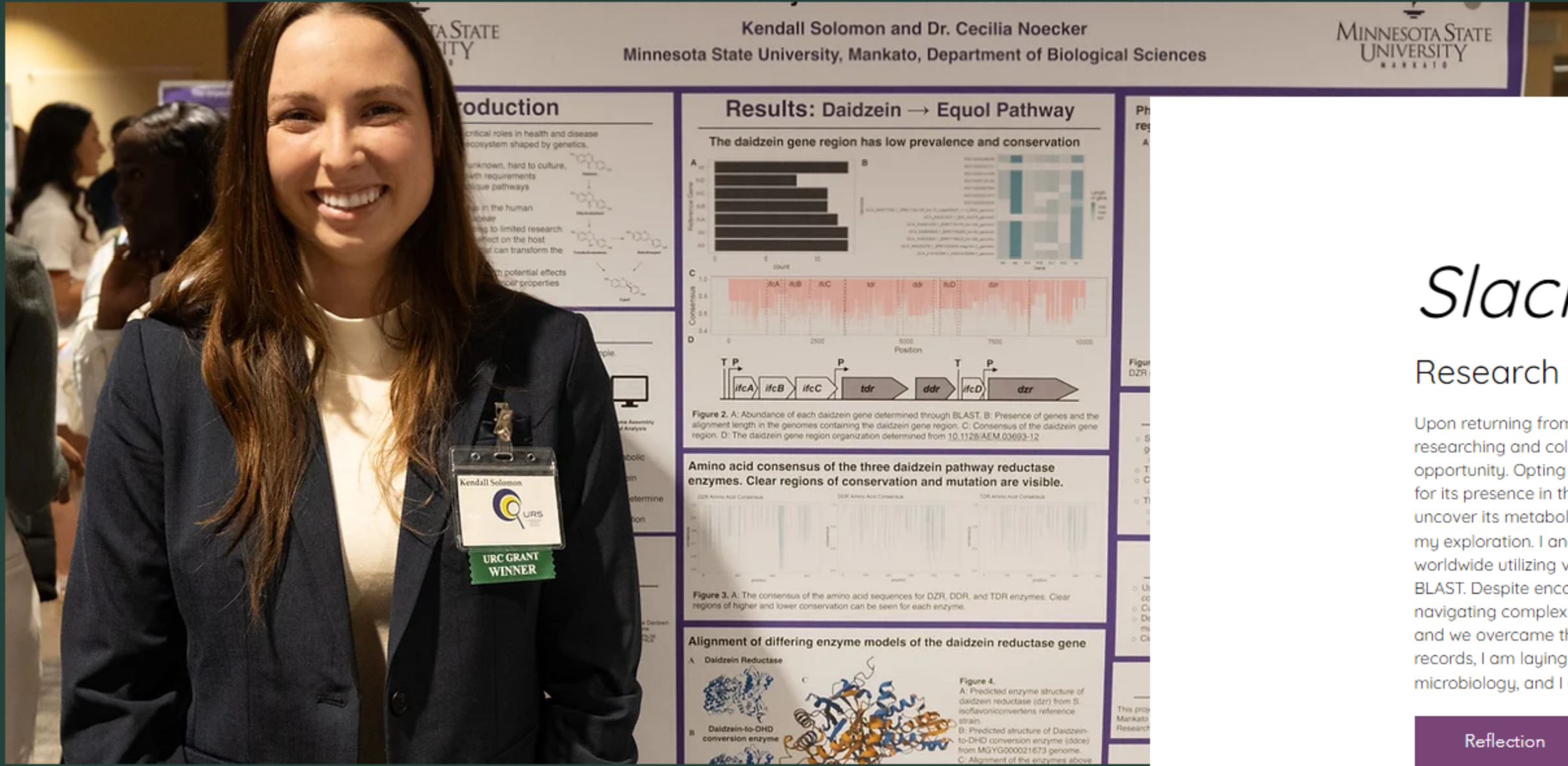
I joined the Honors Launch Learning Community in my first year of college to explore leadership and academic opportunities. We lived, studied, and engaged in leadership exercises together as a group. Simultaneously, in HONR201, I took the Gallup StrengthsFinder test. Analyzing my strengths, I reflected on how they aligned with my past experiences. Through observations of leaders like my learning community coordinator and community advisor, I recognized the impact of communication. I adopted a participative leadership style, valuing input and collaboration. Following, I pursued the Community Advisor and Orientation Peer Assistant roles, where I could showcase my expanding leadership skills and create cohesive, communicative teams. These experiences further shaped my leadership approach, drawing from the lessons learned in the learning community.

[Refelction](#)

[Strengths Finder](#)

Research, Scholarly, & Creative Activity

"Upon graduation, students will access and utilize credible information to answer research questions. Students will complete and present an undergraduate research, scholarly, or creative project as part of their competency development."



Slackia Research

Research Application

Upon returning from studying abroad in Zanzibar, I sought to continue researching and collaborating with Dr. Noecker, who provided the perfect opportunity. Opting to focus on the under-researched genus *Slackia*, known for its presence in the gastrointestinal tract, I embarked on a journey to uncover its metabolic diversity. I secured a research grant to further support my exploration. I analyzed metagenomic data from *Slackia* genomes worldwide utilizing various genome analysis tools like RStudio, Kbase, and BLAST. Despite encountering challenges in locating gene codes and navigating complex genomic data, Dr. Noecker's guidance was invaluable, and we overcame the hurdles. Through compiling results and maintaining lab records, I am laying the groundwork for future research endeavors in microbiology, and I am armed with invaluable data analysis skills.

[Reflection](#)

[Research Abstract](#)

[Poster](#)



Independent Study Project

Research Application

Through my participation in the SIT study abroad program in Zanzibar, Tanzania, I engaged in a month-long independent study project focused on analyzing the physical quality of domestic water in Mangapwani, a rural town facing environmental changes. Despite challenges such as time constraints and limited resources, I navigated independently through the research process, from writing a research proposal to presenting my findings at the 2023 Minnesota State University Mankato Undergraduate Research Symposium. My interdisciplinary approach, combining physical data collection with qualitative community interviews, provided valuable insights into water access and quality in the area. This experience equipped me with essential research skills and ethical practices that I will continue to apply in future endeavors.

[Reflection](#)

[Report](#)

[Presentation](#)



SIT Course Work

Research Development

During my semester in Zanzibar, Tanzania, with the School for International Training (SIT) in Fall 2022, I participated in courses on Coastal Ecology, Natural Resource Management, and Environmental Research Methods and Ethics. Through experiential learning, we conducted various hands-on projects. These projects equipped me with research techniques, emphasizing ethical considerations like informed consent and societal impacts. Additionally, the culmination of these experiences allowed me to propose conservation strategies and understand the practical challenges associated with fieldwork, which I later applied in my independent study project (ISP) and intend to carry forward into my future academic and professional endeavors.

[Reflection](#)

[Coral Reef Management Plan](#)

[Mangrove Case Study](#)

Intercultural Engagement

"Upon graduation, students will learn more about their own culture and develop an understanding of different cultural perspectives, ultimately establishing their own framework for intercultural engagement."



SIT Zanzibar Study Abroad

Intercultural Engagement Application

During my semester abroad in Zanzibar, Tanzania, in Fall 2022, I embarked on a cultural immersion and self-discovery journey. Arriving in a place vastly different from my own, I joined a diverse group of peers to explore the Swahili culture and way of life. From the isolated beaches of Pemba to the bustling city of Stone Town, I dove into language study, homestay experiences, and meaningful interactions with the local community. Along the way, I gained insights into cultural nuances, learned to embrace a slower pace of life, and returned home with a newfound appreciation for diversity and genuine connections.

[Reflection](#)

[Video Artifact](#)



Language Studies Chinese and Swahili

Intercultural Engagement Application

My language journey began in middle school with Spanish courses, though I didn't fully appreciate the opportunity then. In high school, I became intrigued by Mandarin Chinese, delving into its pronunciation and tonal aspects. College broadened my understanding, focusing on vocabulary and cultural intersections, with native-speaking teachers offering diverse perspectives. Immersing myself in Swahili during my study abroad in Zanzibar revealed the intimate connection between language and culture, enriching my understanding of my identity and the community. Despite limited opportunities to practice back home, I strive to maintain and expand my language skills to create local and global connections.

[Reflection](#)

[Artifact](#)

The Full Story About Me

I was born in New Hampshire and raised there till moving to Utah as a teenager. I am the oldest of three and was a competitive gymnast till graduation from high school. Currently, I am an undergraduate majoring in biotechnology at Minnesota State University Mankato. When I am not completing coursework or working you can find me hanging out with friends, skiing, or planning my next adventure. My biggest hobby is travel. I love trying new foods, learning about cultures, and exploring new places.



Mission Statement

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Resume

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Education

Minnesota State University Mankato
BS Biotechnology, exp. May 2024

Park City High School, June 2019



Stay in Touch

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