Genetics

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Personal Statement

My passion for the sciences has been an unwavering force that has led me to some of the greatest experiences of my life. I was fortunate enough to have family members who supported my curiosity from a very young age and made it their priority that I had the opportunity to travel and had access to any materials that would foster my learning. I became increasingly interested in the biological sciences as I spent a great deal of my youth in the blue ridge mountains, the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Realizing early on that our planet’s natural ecosystems were in great danger, I eventually found my way into pursuing a higher education, so that I may be a contributor to the fight to protect our planet and its many inhabitants.

 During the last two years of my undergraduate career, I quickly began gaining a great deal of experience in higher academia on the graduate level and beyond. What initially was meant to be a small meeting with my field botany professor to discuss with him his perspective on the future of the scientific community, eventually led to an invitation to join his research lab. This small interaction has propelled me onto the course I now found myself on. I was able to help both masters and PHD students with their field work, learn the intricacies of developing a thesis and defending dissertations, gain funding to attend scientific conferences, and ultimately build the confidence I would need to peruse a master’s degree in biology. Shortly after my professor’s retirement, I quickly found another lab on campus to of which I am now an active volunteer and research member. I have since then won an award for a travel grant to what will now be my 4th scientific conference and was also accepted into a competitive research program, where I’m currently running my own experiment funded by the National Science foundation. Recently in my personal time, I organize field trips and lectures for the National Botanical society of America ODU chapter of which I was elected Vice President and have also partnered with the Norfolk Botanical Garden to build a native plant garden for the children of Beach Manor elementary school. Science has become not only my passion, but my purpose in life and I feel that to be a more effective scientist, my journey in academia must continue by pursuing a master’s degree in biology.

 I’m confident that the skills I've developed will not only allow me to be an effective scientist but will also enable me to use my ability to connect with others to bring a new level of scientific awareness to the public, something I believe we desperately need in modern times. My drive, determination and passion for science make me an ideal candidate for both a research lab and higher academic institution. By being accepted into a graduate program, I hope to further my ability to conduct meaningful and effective research that will ultimately lead to progress in the fields of biology, ecology, and conservation.