

Zachary Gallegos' Story

What is your year, major/concentration and hometown?

I am currently a senior completing my bachelor of science degree in biology with a molecular biology emphasis and a biochemistry minor. Furthermore, I am also participating in the biology honors program. I am from Villanueva, New Mexico.



How has being awarded this scholarship affected you as a person?

Being awarded the Arthur Furst Scholarship has encouraged and supported my decision to attend graduate school to earn my doctorate. Receiving this award has allowed me to further my passion for research and my desire to help others through the biomedical sciences. Without a doubt, receiving this scholarship has allowed me to gain confidence in my academics and research.

Besides academics, how else are you involved with USF and/or the San Francisco Community?

Since September 2012, I have worked at the Learning and Writing Center (LWC) at USF as a peer tutor, front desk staff member, and peer tutor lead. Through these experiences, I have assisted my peers by providing them with learning techniques and skills to improve their academic success. In addition, I have volunteered with a variety of organizations such as Friends of the Urban Forest and the San Francisco Botanical Gardens.

What are you looking forward to before graduating and why?

I look forward to completing my honors thesis because it symbolizes my first step in becoming a biomedical research scientist. I am also looking forward to completing my last semester as only a peer tutor lead because it will allow me to focus on improving the peer tutoring program to better serve the USF community. I also look forward to enjoying San Francisco one last semester before I leave for graduate school.

What will you do with your USF education after graduation?

After graduation, I plan on attending the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Upon completing my PhD in cancer biology, I plan on becoming a professor and a biomedical research scientist.

If you were to meet the donors of your scholarship in person, what would you tell them?

Thank you for supporting the education for all past, present, and future recipients. Through this scholarship, I have been able to pay for my education and complete my honors thesis project. I would also like to say that receiving this award has allowed me to reach my aspiration of becoming a PhD candidate and a future biomedical scientist.