

Jay Holstine Scholarship
Sam Gibson
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Being a first-generation mechanical engineering student minoring in engineering leadership, I have grown tremendously during my time at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). I became clear on my academic and career goals through immersing myself in extracurriculars and energy engineering internships. Becoming President of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers organization (ASME) has enabled me to empower others to achieve highly in STEM initiatives by growing from 4 to 196 student members. Discovering my passion for sustainable energy, innovation, and mentoring others, I will become a leader in climate technology to better our environment and future generations' health. By receiving the Jay Holstine Scholarship, I would be empowered to finish my education by applying the funds directly to my \$100,000 in student loans. It would alleviate the immense stress and anxiety to perform well in academics, extracurriculars, and internship experiences. By receiving this award, I would focus on my passions, continue to excel in school and align my career with the highest impact on the environment.

As President of ASME, our chapter has grown from 4 to 196 members over the course of 3.5 years. We raised over \$7,500 to accelerate the development of our members while providing tutoring services to the underserved Lincoln community. The Lighthouse After-school Program is a safe place for K-12 students to build upon their educational needs through tutoring, mentoring, evening meals, and career exploration. By partnering ASME with Lighthouse, we support K-12 students who might not have access to STEM education otherwise; It has been an invaluable experience seeing students develop into passionate mathematicians and scientists through small STEM projects and tutoring.

In our weekly ASME chapter meetings, I lead collegiate students in engagements with professors to explore their research opportunities. Similarly, we collaborate with industry leaders to aid in the development of our members through experimental learning. Most importantly, we partner with clubs such as the Society of Women Engineers and The Aerospace Club to cultivate effective team building.

I aspire to enhance the continued education of our students by focusing my efforts in building our chapter around innovative STEM opportunities. As a result, we will strengthen the educational experience for UNL through continuous developments in engineering and community service.

During my education, I have discovered my passion for energy production and leadership. Studying mechanical engineering and engineering leadership is a critical step in my career to fulfill this pursuit. My mission is to provide sustainable energy to populations across the globe to ensure a brighter and cleaner tomorrow. Solutions such as batteries, thermal storage, and hydropower storage need continuous refinement. Similarly, I will be innovating

upon sustainable systems for commercial buildings, power plant designs, and transitioning our grid from fossil fuels to cleaner alternates.

As we make the gradual shift from non-renewables to sustainable energy sources, I am thrilled to be at the forefront of this impactful industry. This award would inspire me to push forward and accomplish my goals in this demanding career path. Through three energy engineering internships, I have effectively found my purpose. In this pursuit, I aspire to continue without the demanding financial burden; as expenses have become overbearing while in school.

College has been tremendously difficult to pay for. I am a first-generation college student from a low-income family in Harrisburg, South Dakota. My experience growing up taught me the importance of financial literacy as our family has minimal resources. I subsidize and pay for all expenses such as tuition, books & materials, and living expenses through student loans. Similarly, I receive federal funding as a portion of the immense costs of attending college. I live paycheck to paycheck to make payments in school which results in excruciating stress and anxiety. Once I become an established alum from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I strive to help those in need such that they may gain freedom while pursuing their degree instead of sacrificing their college experience through making demanding payments. I am dedicated to remaining financially disciplined and paying off loans quickly so that I may continue creating an impact in the STEM fields and my community.

For the remainder of my collegiate career, I aspire to focus on my passions, excel in school, and align my career with the highest impact on the environment. As I continually challenge possibilities in the energy industry, I strive to create a brighter, cleaner, and safer tomorrow for generations to come. I am thrilled to pursue this journey of creating a substantial impact on our world through developing sustainable energy storage and grid resiliency improvements. Becoming a leader on campus and exploring my passions through three energy engineering internships, I have displayed my dedication to the industry and hope to continually inspire others to pursue high impact careers in the STEM fields.

I appreciate the opportunity to apply.

Thank you,
Sam Gibson