Erick Powell

c/o Physics and Astronomy, WWU

516 High Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

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McLeod Family

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Dear McLeod Family,

Thank you very much for awarding me the McLeod scholarship. When I found out that I was chosen for this scholarship, it was very relieving to know that most of the financial burden of my last year of my degree was alleviated. On top of that, my family was very excited to find out that I was selected from a large pool of very impressive applicants.

I am from a small high school on the Kitsap peninsula called North Kitsap Highschool in Poulsbo. I chose western because I knew that I wanted to stay close to home and because of the low cost of attendance. So far, the environment of Western Washington University has had a large impact on my undergraduate experience. I have participated in every opportunity available to me in my department and it has shaped who I am. I have taken advantage of being a Laboratory Assistant since my sophomore year and starting my junior year I begun independent research with Dr. Rines in the department of physics and astronomy. This summer I was selected to participate in a two-month paid research experience to further my experience in research which will help me with future graduate school applications.

I have been interested in physics since my high school physics class inspired me to try to understand how things fundamentally work around us. My undergraduate experience has just increased my curiosity and improved my work ethic. To take advantage of my time in undergraduate, I have taken large credit loads multiple quarters. Finishing Applied Mathematics and Physics in four years is a huge challenge, but I have had my most success in my most difficult quarters.

This scholarship is going to allow me to take focus on my last year of undergraduate and getting into graduate school. I can not express how thankful I am that I will not have to worry about asking my family to cover my burdens. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Erick Powell