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The world is made up of complex interactions that ultimately form a larger picture, but many often disregard those integral interactions and instead focus on the larger picture. As someone who is holistically minded, I often form these connections and seek out those missing details. This ability has enabled me to dissect and transform the connections around me in a way that can intertwine my understandings and perspectives with others. A map is a tool that can be used to help develop the overall message someone may be trying to convey. I want to help others see those interactions and understand how barriers between sidewalks and the road are as important as a bridges structural stability, and I believe GIS is that missing link.

I have chosen to pursue a Master of Science in Geospatial Technologies at the University of Washington Tacoma because it significantly aligns with my personal value and career goal: to help define a new way of living. I am also interested in learning more about a Master of Art in Community Planning offered at UWT. During my time at Stetson University, I have had the opportunity of being a teaching assistant for Introductory GIS with Dr. Abbott, professor of Environmental Science. This experience completely changed my outlook and understanding of GIS. As a TA, I was able to implement my leadership and management skills. I developed a way to communicate and articulate the intricacies of ArcGIS, creating a bridge for even my most frustrated students. Earning a degree at UWT would help build on and further define my skills in geospatial technologies in a way that I can then help others understand what the bigger picture is. Furthermore, Washington is a diverse state with many opportunities to explore and grow my skills and passion for the environment and its various ecological interactions.

My Stetson education has challenged me and pushed my intellectual boundaries in both breadth and depth. Classes offered in GIS and geospatial technologies have taught me how to problem solve and correctly manage and understand data in ArcGIS. My landscape ecology course broadened my use of geospatial technologies through SLAMM and TerrSet. Outside of GIS, I have taken a course in environmental planning, which has allowed me to see how important planning is to our future sustainability and resilience as a community, as well as the need for planners that are skilled in GIS and who know why ecological factors are important to the planning process. My internship with the St. John's River to Sea Loop Alliance allowed me to utilize many skills from arsenal including GIS, marketing, communication, teaching and management. The ultimate goal for this internship was to create a map based on grant guidelines, however I also helped market for the summit where all five counties, that make up the 260-mile-long trail, came together to discuss their combined images. For my Senior Research, I performed water quality testing on my school's campus to measure chlorine and coliform bacterial levels. I purposefully chose not to do a GIS related project in order to diversify my knowledge and comprehension around this pressing issue many students on my campus are concerned about. One experience has not completely defined my time here at Stetson University, but all of the experiences have had contributed to the larger picture of who I am and what I want to do.