



## S-STEM Biographies Cohorts 1-2, 2019 - Present

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### **Roxy Denton**

**Time in S-STEM:** 1 Semester

**Degree:** Major in Biology

**Plan:** Roxy's long-term goals are to use her degree in Biology from UNO and apply it to complete graduate school for a career in the STEM field.

**What benefits and/or professional skills have you gained?**

Benefits would be community service work, as well as an increase in communication skills with people of all ages. This relates to my long-term goals because these skills that will apply to any career option for myself in the future.

**What is a hobby of yours?**

I love to paint and draw, and I am also a student athlete at UNO on the women's track and field team!



### **Nolan Bennett**

**Time in S-STEM:** 1 semester

**Degree:** BSA in Chemistry

**Plan:** Nolan's long-term goal is to either get accepted into medical school or get a PhD in chemistry and go into research. This year, Nolan plans on getting experience in lab and hospital settings to help him decide on a career.

**What benefits and/or professional skills have you gained?**

Through the S-STEM and NE STEM 4U programs I plan on networking with professors and gaining valuable experience working with children interested in STEM. I am excited to have this opportunity to work with faculty and peers that find value in teaching and learning about the sciences.

**What is a hobby of yours?**

Besides chemistry, I enjoy running and reading classic fiction.



### **Marissa Schmidt**

**Time in S-STEM:** 2 semesters

**Degree:** Major in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Psychology

**Plan:** Marissa hopes to graduate in the Spring of 2022 and then attend Physician Assistant school.

**What benefits and/or professional skills have you gained?**

I am excited to mentor kids and gain leadership and social skills. I am also looking forward to the research opportunities S-STEM provides so I can gain experience doing research and working in a lab. These skills will help me thrive in Physician Assistant school.

**What is a hobby of yours?**

I enjoy camping, traveling, binge watching shows, playing with my pets, and spending time with my friends and family.



## Shana Huebner

**Time in S-STEM:** 2 semesters

**Degree:** Major in Environmental Science with a Life Science concentration

**Plan:** Shana would like to finish this degree and then attend vet school and specifically study medicine for wild animals.

### **What benefits and/or professional skills have you gained?**

The program truly benefit my future in a multitude of ways. I have made valuable connections with my peers and faculty and gained meaningful experiences through mentoring. Seeing kids genuinely excited about STEM helps to remind me why my goals are important.

### **What is a hobby of yours?**

When I'm not in the classroom or working at a wildlife rehabilitation center, you can find me visiting my family in Colorado. A couple of my favorite things are spending time with loved ones and traveling!



## Bailey Frank

**Time in S-STEM:** 2 semesters

**Degree:** Majors in Pre-Med Laboratory Science and General Science

**Plan:** Bailey's life goal is to eventually become the lead researcher of a developmental team and create a test to reliably determine specific mental illnesses.

### **What benefits and/or professional skills have you gained?**

Being able to help people and children not have to deal with these traumatizing sicknesses that I personally struggle with would mean the world to me. Being able to talk to kids and to get them interested in STEM lets me see what the future generations have to offer the world, and drives me to succeed in my goals to make sure they're able to see the future too.

### **What is a hobby of yours?**

Growing up, I spent my time playing video games and watching YouTubers, which helped take my mind off certain things that I was dealing with. I still do both these things and enjoy them immensely. I'd love to start my own channel someday to give back what certain YouTube communities have given to me.



## Duane Severson

**Time in S-STEM:** 1 semester

**Degree:** MIS (Management Information Systems)

**Plan:** Duane's short term plan is to earn work experience while attending school and get an early start on retirement and future savings. The long-term plan is to move more officially into an IT field of work after graduating and move back East and/or start a business.

### **What benefits and/or professional skills have you gained?**

Time management & Scheduling, Teaching skills, better communication

### **What is a hobby of yours?**

Hardware hacking video game consoles, making cool mods, hardware design in general.



## Javier Rodriguez

**Time in S-STEM:** 1 semester

**Degree:** Molecular and Biomedical Biology

**Plan:** Although I am not sure what I want to do in the future, I know I want to have a career in the science field and this program has really helped me explore my options and build bridges. Currently I am focusing on my school work making sure I obtain good grades, so that I have many open doors for my future.

**What benefits and/or professional skills have you gained?**

It has really taught me some valuable skills I will keep with me. I have learned how to adapt to different environments. I have also gained better communication skills. This program is also helping me gain relationships and connections that have been valuable throughout my time in college.

**What is a hobby of yours?**

Outside of school I enjoy playing soccer. It's something I do with friends and really helps me stay relaxed when I am feeling stressed.



## Brandon Villanueva Sanchez

**Time in S-STEM:** 1 semester

**Degree:** Biology and Neuroscience

**Plan:** Still working on this.

**What benefits and/or professional skills have you gained?**

Since I joined, I learned that working together is more efficient and more fun than working alone. Ability to work in teams.

**What is a hobby of yours?**

I love playing soccer and listening to music



## Grant Goodrich

**Time in S-STEM:** 2 semesters

**Degree:** Major in Civil Engineering

**Plan:** Grant's major long-term goal is to become a licensed professional civil engineer. However, it's also one of his goals to have a job in which he can be innovative- whether that's developing a new product or even a new method.

**What benefits and/or professional skills you have acquired in the program?**

My communication skills have improved the most from the mentoring program. Communication with mentees and fellow mentors has helped my skills greatly. These communication skills, as with any engineering job, are crucial. But communication is especially important in dealing with innovation. To develop a product or a method is great in of itself, but if one can't clearly express his or her idea to others, then it's useless.

**What is a hobby of yours?**

A hobby that I recently picked up- guitar. I'm not very good, but it has given me something to do in quarantine, and I have been enjoying it!



## Jayden Wooten

**Time in S-STEM:** 2 semesters

**Degree:** Major in biology

**Plan:** My plan for short term is to get some practice in the medical field at my new job. My long-term plan is to become a PA.

### **What benefits and/or professional skills have you gained?**

From the program I have gained communication skills, teamwork skills, and have met people who have been able to benefit my college experience (friends, people to help with school work, etc.).

### **What is a hobby of yours?**

A couple hobbies of mine are fishing, watching and playing sports, food, and hanging out with friends.

## Arriana Blackmon

**Time in S-STEM:** 1 semester

**Degree:** Major in Biology with minor in Mathematics

**Plan:** Arriana is interested in cancer research and uncovering the mechanism that causes the various forms of the disease. Arriana plans to continue through graduate school with immunology or genetics research with a focus on cancer treatment.

### **What benefits and/or professional skills have you gained?**

I joined the S-STEM program because of the many opportunities present with becoming a scholar – like gaining leadership skills and professional development. I think this program is a great way to cultivate the development of young scientists and educators.

### **What is a hobby of yours?**

My biggest hobby right now is learning how to draw – which I've heard will be useful for organic chemistry.

## Rob Meredith

**Time in S-STEM:** 2 semesters

**Major:** Major in Electrical Engineering with minors in Math and Spanish

**Plan:** Rob would like to implement more stable power grids around the world, but especially in less developed countries. Rob is also looking to move out of the country once he graduates and live abroad.

### **What benefits and/or professional skills have you gained?**

Overall, I feel as though my people skills have improved as a result of being a part of this program. Also, I'm challenged to explain concepts and topics in a way that's easily understood by an elementary student. Simplifying explanations is something that I'll definitely carry with me in pursuit of my goals because not everyone will have the same level of education in electrical engineering that I do, yet they need to know something important related to the work that I'm doing.

### **What is a hobby of yours?**

For fun, I like jumping out of perfectly good airplanes at 15,000 ft. (skydiving). I also enjoy snowboarding, playing sports and working out.

## Abdulnaser Sheikh

**Time in S-STEM:** 1 semester

**Degree:** Major in Computer Science

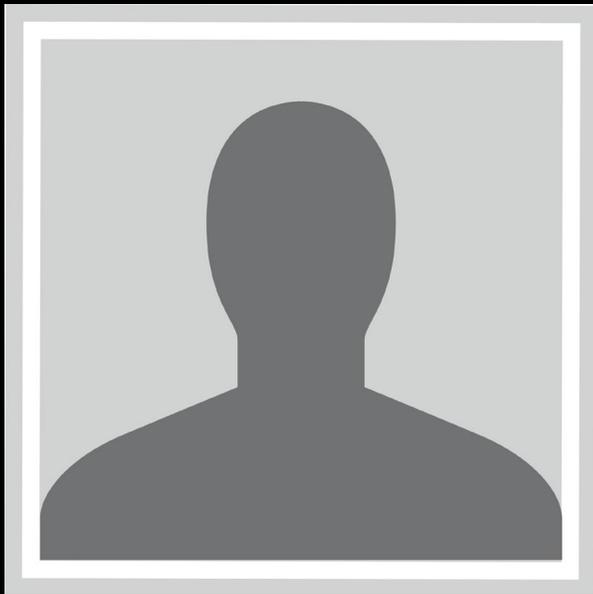
**Plan:** Abdul plans to obtain a PhD in Computer Science.

### **What benefits and/or professional skills have you gained?**

I learned to make websites and this relates to my long-term goal of becoming a Ph.D. student in computer science because learning to code is essential.

### **What is a hobby of yours?**

I like to code and do calculus.



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