

SPRING 2022

## *Developmental Education Scholarship*

RECIPIENT

Jake Jagiello

**CITY:** Villa Park, IL

**DEGREE PROGRAM:** Associate in Science



As an Environmental Science student, here at the College of DuPage, I am driven first and foremost by my admiration and appreciation for the natural world and all that it has to offer. Having been infatuated with nature from a very young age, it was a no-brainer that I pursue a career in this field. I am intensely passionate and interested in this field of science and have always found it easy to devote myself to studying, learning about, and researching the topics related to the field, as they become increasingly important in the world we live in, and due to the issues that plague our society related to global warming and natural resources.

I first became academically interested in pursuing this field after joining and becoming the co-president of the environmental club at Willowbrook High school. My love grew as I joined the environmental club at the College of DuPage, enrolled in courses relating to these topics, and met others who shared my passion. I am now the president of the environmental club, as well as an employee in the natural areas here. I enjoy finding any way that I can volunteer and devote my time to the causes that I believe in. The College of DuPage is the first step of the journey for me, and it is here that I have been enrolling in my gen-ed courses, devoting my time to working in the natural areas on campus, and taking courses that suit my interests, of which there are too many to count at COD. After attaining an Associate's of Science here at the college, I plan to transfer to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where I'll pursue a Bachelor's of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Science, a degree which aligns with my career aspirations, which involve working in restoration ecology and conservation, possibly as a natural resources manager or a conservation biologist. I am beyond excited to continue my academic journey following my graduation from the College of DuPage, and to continue to use every opportunity to grow and learn more about the field that drives me. I am incredibly grateful to know that donors like yourself make this education possible and far more accessible, through the generosity of donation, because paying for higher education is not easy for my family.

My family became a single-parent household when my father passed away due to cancer, in 2011. This significantly impacted my family's financial security and stability, especially when it came to the expenses for me and my brother. This included a heightened worry for my mother, about paying for our higher education when the time came. Ever since beginning my higher education journey at the College of DuPage, I have relied on grants and scholarships to aid me in having as stress-free an educational experience as possible. For this reason, it makes me very glad to see that I am now one step further in making my academic dreams a reality.