



About me: My name is Haley Barnett. I am currently a PhD student in the Molecular Science and Nanotechnology (MSNT) program. I grew up in Columbia, Louisiana where I graduated as valedictorian at Caldwell Parish High School in 2011. I attended the University of Louisiana at Monroe and received my bachelor's of science degree in biology with a minor in chemistry in 2015. I originally decided to study biology so that I could apply for medical school. However, after joining a chemistry research group for experience on my medical school applications, I fell in love with research. I knew that I wanted to challenge myself every day and to continue to grow as a scientist. I was accepted into the MSNT PhD program at Louisiana Tech in Fall 2016, and the journey has been nothing short of amazing so far. The faculty and staff in the College of Applied and Natural Science have been very welcoming and supportive. The environment at Louisiana Tech makes you feel like you're a part of a family, not just a student. After completing my PhD, I plan to become a research professor where I can inspire future students the way my professors have inspired me to become a better person and scientist every day.

Mentors: I am very fortunate to have an extensive support system that has helped me get this far. My entire family has been a critical component in my success and I can't thank them enough for supporting me and motivating me to do my best. I also have to say a huge thank you to Dr. Srinivas Garlapati from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. His classes inspired me to continue to study biology and without his encouragement I wouldn't have applied to the MSNT PhD program at Louisiana Tech. Most importantly I want to thank my advisors, Dr. Mary Caldorera-Moore and Dr. Jamie Newman. I am so fortunate to work for two incredible role models. I will never be able to thank them enough for the guidance, experience and encouragement they have provided. It has been a privilege and a blessing to be a part of both the Caldorera-Moore and Newman labs, and I look forward to continuing to grow as a scientist under their guidance.

Quote: "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." -Carl Sagan