

# Your giving changes lives.

## Meet Harry Subertas:

"Earth and its ecosystem fascinate me in a lot of different areas. But one area in particular been interesting to me the most is Glaciology. I've spent a lot of my time on the glaciers recreationally, but never in a scientific approach. Therefore it piqued my interest to study Glaciers and it's effects on the earth. I'm hoping that environmental science degree would be my first step in gaining scientific research experience leading me to become a researcher."

Harry has gained knowledge about how to be safe in the mountains and has been able to share his knowledge with others through his work as a Mountain Guide and Mountaineering Instructor. Harry has found that he is very passionate about teaching others to be prepared for their own mountain adventure. While not mountaineering or studying, Harry occupies his time training for and participating in long-distance endurance events; he has participated in multiple Ironman triathlons and a 200-mile trail race.

Having attended community college before, Harry found himself listless and studying things he was not interested in. He left community college in New Jersey, and Harry has been traveling the world for the past four years. Although he never thought he would return to formal education, he is excited to study the Environment out of his own curiosity.

### 2022-2023 Recipient

Harry Subertas

### Program

Bachelor of Arts  
and Science

### Class Standing

Junior

### Award

\$3,000

### Major

Environmental Science

### Hometown

Haines, AK

**Coeur Alaska - Kensington Gold Mine Environmental Science Award**



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## Meet Connor Owens:

"My primary ambition for my schooling is to aid, support, and fight for my community. I study environmental science, but I also believe in learning about society and social concerns in and out of the classroom. ...

Living among a place's people may be the best method to break down mental barriers. Spending time in Costa Rica and Finland has taught me more than ten years of books, films, and the internet."

In 2021, Connor attended a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates program at Texas A&M University and their Soltis Center research site in Costa Rica. The program emphasized ecohydrology, and his research examined tropical montane forest microclimate across elevational gradients. He has also been a peer adviser for two years and worked as an assistant at a leisure center and as an intern in environmental policy at the Alaska State Capitol for a semester.



Now in the International Student Exchange Program, Connor is living in Finland at the University of Turku in Finland in a complex with other international exchange students. In his spare time, you can find Connor outside rock climbing and rollerblading.

### 2022–2023 Recipient

Connor Owens

### Award

\$3,000

### Program

Bachelor of Arts  
and Science

### Major

Environmental Science

### Class Standing

Senior

### Hometown

Palmer, AK

## Coeur Alaska - Kensington Gold Mine Environmental Science Award

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## Meet Amy Baxter:

"I try to keep outside in my free time. I was born and raised in Palmer, Alaska where my parents were always hauling me up to Hatcher Pass for hikes, ski trips, and camping. I thank the ski coach I had at Palmer High School for the outstanding work ethic I have today, physically and mentally, as well as for nurturing in me a love for the outdoors. Leaving high school, I had a difficult time deciding on a career or degree path. I tried environmental science, but it ended up being more computer work than I wanted. I then tried out some courses in veterinary medicine, seeing as I grow up with a passion for animals, and even worked at the Musk Ox Farm in Palmer for several years. This wasn't right either. I ended up taking a break and found myself working in a local sandwich shop. I spent my evenings once again roaming Hatcher Pass after my shifts wondering what in the world I was going to do next."

Amy concluded that the Major that encompasses all her passions is Marine Biology; she even got her first dive certification at the age of twelve. Once she decided to pursue Marine Biology, UAS was a clear choice of University. Amy is writing a research grant proposal to submit to URECA (Undergraduate Research for Creative Activities); she has proposed research about the fitness of crab populations off the coasts of Alaska, a topic she is truly interested in.

### 2022-2023 Recipient

Amy Baxter

### Award

\$3,000

### Program

Bachelor of Arts  
and Science

### Major

Marine Biology

### Class Standing

Junior

### Hometown

Palmer, AK



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA  
SOUTHEAST

*learn • engage • change*

**Coeur Alaska - Kensington Gold Mine Environmental Science Award**

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## Meet Gale Vantrease:

"I distinctly remember the first time my mother took me to pick cedar bark for weaving. I remember the sticky resin on my fingertips and sunlight filtering through the trees. Learning to harvest and weave cedar bark connects me to my ancestors. I want to pass on this valuable knowledge. I was saddened to read that climate change was killing my region's cedar trees. This prompted me to study environmental sciences."

In 2019, Gale attended the American Indian Science and Engineering Society Conference and was moved by the countless ways Indigenous knowledge can change the world. This conference inspired her to learn even more from her ancestors to combine her degree with Indigenous and Western knowledge and preserve nature's gifts for future generations.

Gale attended a master apprenticeship with local fluent Lingi't speakers and started language revitalization with her grandparents and other students. After gaining knowledge and Lingi't speaking skills, she was a cultural liaison in Sealaska's Baby Raven Reads program where she is educating the future generations.



**UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
SOUTHEAST**

2022–2023 Recipient

Gale Vantrease

Award

\$3,000

Program

Bachelor of Arts  
and Science

Major

Environmental Science

Class Standing

Sophomore

Hometown

Kake, AK

**Coeur Alaska - Kensington Gold Mine Environmental Science Award**