

Statement of Purpose
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Jonathan Fillmore

Our life experiences shape us. They put a spark inside us to pursue life to its fullest. They enlarge our vision and compassion for others and the world in which we live in. How will my presence enrich the University of Wisconsin River Falls community? By being the kind of place where I can continue to ignite the spark. By being a place where I can grow academically and increase my passion for horticulture. By being a place where I can make a difference.

After completing the ninth grade in a local charter school, I needed to find my niche for the remainder of my high school years. My grandfather had farming roots, so the Agriculture and Food Science Academy drew my interest. I began AFSA [the American Fire Sprinkler Association?] in the tenth grade, a decision that molded me for the future. After exploring various agricultural branches, I soon discovered that I had a passion and talent for horticulture, and in particular, floriculture. My horticulture instructor, Ms. Worm, put more spark into my flame. She introduced me to the world of horticulture/floriculture. Ms. Worm showed me how to have a good work ethic. I learned in her classes that it is not only important to get a job done fast, but also to get the job done right. I learned wonders about horticulture—how to identify and classify plants, soil types, how to landscape properly, how to create a rain garden, and how to help the environment. Through being on the floriculture CDE my experience and passion for horticulture augmented even more. I crammed in knowledge of even more plants. It fanned the flame even more. It helped me realize that I wanted to major in some sort of horticulture related degree.

Another passion and talent that I will bring to the University of Wisconsin River Falls is my skill and love for web developing. I learned web developing outside of formal schooling. My older brother, a computer science graduate student, sent me a “do it yourself” web developing guide. We communicated via email. I experimented, inquired, learned. I have integrated this skill into my horticulture studies. Recently I developed a website about the amaryllis flower. Web developing has proven very useful to my future career in horticulture.

Finally I will benefit the University of River Falls community through making a difference in the world. I plan to continue to participate in service projects. During my years at AFSA we often participated in service activities. We had many farm service days. We also served through our O-term and M-term projects. At times we would clean a farmers barn. Other times we weeded gardens, built rain gardens, pulled buckthorn, or planted trees. Helping others through these service projects was very rewarding. I was making a difference in someones life. These service projects also helped me personally to learn, and were yet another tool that ignited my passion for horticulture. I learned what a farmer does, how a greenhouse works, how to be professional, the process of a flowers growth, and so much more. But more importantly, through service I experienced the reward of helping others.