**Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.**

Outside of the educational opportunities that I’ve had through school, I’ve been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work in my great uncle’s vineyard. In applying to UC Davis, I am hoping to major in Viticulture and Enology, and I’m lucky enough to have had the chance to do some minor work within the field. While I am far from having the knowledge essential to becoming a vineyard manager or another position in the field, the opportunity to be on an actual vineyard and learn about the processes involved in winemaking and the harvesting of grapes has helped me acquire a small taste of what working in a vineyard would be like. The experience that I’ve had working on the vineyard in combination with the actual sciences that I would learn in the major at UC Davis would be the best combination for pursuing a career in the wine business.

 While working on the vineyard, I had the job of picking grapes that were ready to be harvested. I remember one day specifically where I worked through the afternoon picking grapes, filling baskets upon baskets in the hot sun. While the work was physically taxing, I was amazed in the evening when I got to view the wine cellar full of bottled wine dating back decades. I think that there must be a great deal of satisfaction in creating a product entirely from scratch, and being able to see the physical result of a long term effort. If I hadn’t had the opportunity to work on the vineyard, then I might have never considered Viticulture/Enology as an option for a college major. This opportunity that I was lucky enough to have has helped me learn what I want to get out of my college education, and the steps that I need to take to get there. From what I observed at the vineyard, I’ve found that Viticulture/Enology has a combination of both physical work and in-depth science, both of which I find interesting and essential to my choice in college major.