

To the Families of Ellis Heyer and Collin LaMore,

Unfortunately, I never had the privilege of meeting Ellis or Collin, but their stories have been passed down through the Outdoor Pursuits Program for a number of years now. Their passion and love for this amazing program resonates strongly with me, and I'm positive these feelings are shared by each eager student that moves through the OPP. The unifying sentiment from the 2016 graduates was the enormous influence of the program on their lives, whether it be keeping them motivated in college or giving them necessary skills and confidence to go forward and pursue any number of rewarding and challenging goals. The OPP has the incredible power of connecting these generations of students through a shared love and commitment to outdoor pursuits; what inspired Collin and Ellis will continue to change student lives for years to come.

I do not have the adequate words to describe how grateful I am to have discovered the OPP so many years ago. It not only shaped my experience at University of Oregon and influenced the trajectory of my future, it brought me together with the most talented, driven, and passionate group of people I have ever met. The lifelong friendships forged in the rain and snow, under shelter or braving the elements, have impacted me EVEN more than the plethora of knowledge bestowed by Dan, Michael, Andreas, Chuck, Dustin, and Anne. Which is not to downplay the quality of the content in each and every class; if it were not for the technical skills, leadership development, and general outdoor ethics taught in the program, I would never have gone on to get my Wilderness EMT license with the goal of protecting and serving those who find themselves at odds with the natural world.

I cannot thank you enough for creating such a generous award; it is quite an honor to receive, as I have lead alongside such impressive peers who are as equally deserving of recognition. I have high hopes that each and every person who leaves this program will continue to embody the spirit of Ellis and Collin, living full and joyful lives.

With deepest regards,

Morgen Dorsey