

JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION / LEXI PEREIRA

My Aquatic Ecology teacher flipped through various documentaries and pressed play once reaching *Slingshot*. I soon learned that what I expected to be a wooden toy was actually a water purification device invented by Dean Kamen, a humanitarian engineer. I was fascinated by the implementation of vapor compression distillation to provide clean drinking water to rural communities. The documentary shaped my career path and prompted me to strive to impact global communities through natural resource management.

Inspired by my teacher's hands-on lessons and the documentary, I envisioned myself as an engineer similar to Kamen, combatting the world's water crisis and positively impacting humanity. I was enthusiastically accepted to be a part of the Environmental Engineering major at the University of Miami, allowing me to pursue humanitarian engineering and one day extend my hand to the millions of people worldwide. To begin combating the global water crisis through science and service, I have looked for opportunities to advocate for my community's sustainable future.

As a Lieutenant Governor for the NJ District of Key Club International, I accepted the role of District Project Steering committee chairperson to lead the service project "Keeping the Garden State Green." I worked with professional organizations such as TREX and New Jersey Future to promote recycling and green infrastructure. I trumpeted the importance of environmental awareness through social media and informational guides, capturing the attention of over 12,000 club members from 142 schools. I intend to spread environmental stewardship among my peers through student-led organizations such as Circle K and the UMiami Eco Agency. From my Key Club experience, I discovered a connection between service and the environment. I realized that I wanted to pursue this topic further, harnessing it into a career path in academia.

I am interested in learning about Professor Helena Solo-Gabriele's research regarding sustainable water management. As a student, I would have the opportunity to apply research skills to water resource management. Working with the research group Crabbing Responsibly at Barnegat Bay, my experience conducting, publishing, and presenting research prepared me to continue my research journey. I developed my passion for academia and overcame my fear of public speaking, communicating data with poise and efficiency. Seeking the guidance of professors, I plan to research filtration devices to mitigate the global water crisis.

To broaden my perspective on global health issues and apply the skills learned while indulging in sustainability-based courses, I would participate in University of Miami's Engineers Without Borders study abroad program addressing community-identified issues in global communities. I would develop intellectually and personally while adapting to new cultures. The program would help qualify me for the Peace Corps and a career creating impactful technology of the future.

I plan to dedicate my time to studies, exploring programs, and enjoying life as a Hurricane. Whether I am cheering on the Miami Hurricanes football team or collecting scientific data from coral reefs, I am optimistic that I will be equipped to tackle the global water crisis, changing the world of tomorrow.