

To the incredible members of the Justin Benjamin Foundation,

As one of the recipients of this year's Los Angeles Zoo conservation internship grant, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for your support. Currently, I am pursuing a degree in environmental studies and a minor in marine biology, and will be a junior come this fall. I really cannot believe how quickly my time at USC has gone by, and I truly cannot thank you enough for investing in me and your role in shaping my education and future.

At USC, I have had incredible opportunities to discover more about the world around me through my classes, the Environmental Student Assembly, and now, my recently completed internship. I've learned about the science behind climate change, the importance of research, and the value of having a deep connection with the world around me.

Outside of school, I work with the Los Angeles Natural History Museum's marine biodiversity center (MBC) as a student digitizer. With the MBC, I input data from marine invertebrate specimen labels within the museum's collections rooms. This job allows me to gain experience in data collection, data analysis, and species identification. When I come back to school in the fall, I'll be starting another job with the environmental studies front office, where I am excited to gain experience with customer service and website design. Through these two jobs, I am hoping to learn more about the different facets of environmental studies and what I'll be able to plan for with my degree.

Again, I am so grateful for your investment into my future, and I sincerely promise that I'll make the most out of it. After I graduate, I'm excited to use what I've learned at USC to pursue a career in conservation and restoration or research. Through this career path, I want to preserve southern California's beautiful natural landscape, ecosystems, and environment.

I cannot thank you enough for this very generous gift and the opportunities you have provided me. This experience has been more than invaluable, and the chance to step outside of the classroom and apply what I have learned thus far was something I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

With much gratitude,
Caylin Mobley