

Letter of Interest in Joining the NELA Governing Board

From: Galen Dennis

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To: The Northpoint Expeditionary Learning Academy Governing Board

Address: 551 1st St., Prescott, AZ 86301

Phone: 928-717-3272

October 31st, 2022

Dear Director and Members of the Board,

I was recently made aware of an opening on the Governing Board of Northpoint Expeditionary Learning Academy. I am writing to express my interest in filling this position as a volunteer. I grew up close to Prescott and attended Northpoint from my sophomore year to graduation. While at NELA I was the first student to develop and complete honors programs for chemistry and economics. I also participated in many of the travel programs offered and was involved in fundraising to make each trip a success. In addition, I played on the basketball and ultimate-frisbee teams, receiving the scholarly athlete award as a part of the championship ultimate team in 2016. I graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was co-valedictorian for the class of 2017.

Northpoint was a critical steppingstone along my career path, and I would like to pay back some of the support and opportunity I received during my time there by helping maintain an effective administration now. I hope to bring strong organizational and interpersonal skills that are directly related to junior high and high school academics to the Governing Board. These skills have been built through experience with nonprofit administration by serving a year on The Launch Pad teen center Board of Directors as co-treasurer. As well as working at Northern Arizona University (NAU) as a teaching assistant and as a tutor. After graduating from NAU, Magna Cum Laude, I am pursuing a PhD at the Colorado School of Mines. Here I have also worked as a teaching assistant, and currently volunteer as a student teacher through the Rocky Mountain MESA program at Arvada West Highschool.

As an alumnus I am familiar with Northpoint's culture and goals for its students. As a researcher who is passionate about environmental and social conscientiousness and sustainability, I fully support these goals. By serving on the board, I want to maintain the unique and nurturing culture present at Northpoint and ensure that students are offered strong academic opportunities through their education. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Galen Dennis

PhD Student: Applied Chemistry

Colorado School of Mines

Galen M. Dennis

906 12th St
Golden, CO 80401

(928) 499-7645
galendennis3@gmail.com

Education

Colorado School of Mines (CSM), Golden, CO

Fall 2021-Current

- Graduate School - Applied Chemistry PhD Program. Student Researcher in the Posewitz Laboratory Group

Northern Arizona University (NAU), Flagstaff, AZ

Fall 2017-Spring 2021

- Baccalaureate Degree - Magna Cum Laude, 3.91 GPA, ACS Biochemistry major, Spring 2019 exchange to Germany
- Dean's List Fall 2017, Spring-Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring-Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Northpoint EL Learning Academy (NELA), Prescott, AZ

Fall 2014-Spring 2017

- Highschool Diploma 4.0 GPA, valedictorian, participated in honors, student council, clubs, and sports. Active participant in The Northpoint Foreign Travel program including German exchange and service trips to El Salvador and Mexico. Pioneered student-led honors courses in chemistry, physics, and economics

Employment History

CSM Department of Chemistry, Golden, CO

Fall 2021 - Present

- Graduate Research Assistant. Identifying and characterizing promising algal species for the Department of Energy Bioengineering Technology Office's DISCOVER project and APEX research grant.
- General Chemistry Laboratory Teaching Assistant: Responsible for helping students safely complete experiments; mentored lab techniques and graded assignment submissions.

NAU Undergraduate Research, Flagstaff, AZ

Fall 2019 – Fall 2021

- Awarded the NAU Green Fund Award and NASA Space Grant Research Internship to conduct research on carbon dioxide absorption by algae and methane gas production through anaerobic digestion
- Presented results at NAU Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2020.

NAU Chemistry & Biochemistry Department, Flagstaff, AZ

Fall 2020 – Fall 2021

- Organic Chemistry Laboratory Teaching Assistant and Stockroom Worker across multiple courses
- Responsible for helping students safely complete experiments; mentored lab techniques; maintained lab materials & inventory; developed strong leadership, communication, & organizational skills.

NAU College of Engineering, Informatics and Applied Sciences, Flagstaff, AZ

Spring 2020 - Fall 2020

- CENE 180 Computer Aided Drafting (AutoCAD) course Teaching Assistant – coursework grader, hosted office hours

NAU Academic Success Center, Flagstaff, AZ

Fall 2018 - Spring 2020

- Tutor; General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, German and Biology. Assisted students with understanding and completing complicated assignments and course materials. Strong development in communication skills and critical thinking.

Skills

Instruments: NMR, IR and UV-Vis spectroscopy, HPLC, GC-FID, Compound microscope, Autoclave, Algal bioreactors

Experimental: Bioprospecting, Optical Density, Titration, Lipid quantification, Media preparation, Culture growth, DNA isolation

Programming: Python (Certified Basic), AutoCAD, Excel Spreadsheets

Languages: English (fluent, native), German (B2)

First Aid: NOLS Wilderness First Responder, CPR, EpiPen

Awards

- 2021 NAU Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Kenneth E. Bean Teaching Assistant Award
- 2019 NAU Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Analytical Chemistry Award
- 2017 Prescott Scholastic Chess Tournament First Place, high school division
- 2016 Prescott Area Leadership Youth of the Year Nomination
- 2015 Perfect Attendance, Northpoint EL Learning Academy
- 2015 Northern Arizona Athletic Association Scholarly Athlete Award, Ultimate Frisbee
- 2012 Yavapai Symphony Guild - First Place Winner Junior Division Voice