



**ARIEL A. TAYLOR**  
Department of Animal Sciences  
Animal Sciences - Animal Biosciences  
Medina, OH

Ariel pinpointed her heavy involvement with the creation of the student organization Best Food Forward as one segment from her undergraduate career of which she is particularly proud. Along with 17 other Eminence fellows, she worked to come up with ideas that would tackle a huge issue in Columbus: food insecurity. Working alongside the community through United Way, Local Matters, and the OSU inFACT program, Best Food Forward has blossomed into a sustainable organization that increases access to fresh produce on campus through bulk buying events and educational programming.

Another satisfying realization from Ariel's undergraduate experiences she shared is that after a semester long training program, she became certified to work as a group fitness instructor at the RPAC through the Office of Student Life and Recreational Sports at OSU. This program developed her confidence, public speaking skills, and leadership skills. Ariel teaches cycle and strength classes to roughly 60 participants a week in addition to mentoring and teaching younger instructors in the program. Teaching each class is inspiring as she sees participants make progress from week to week or helps those new to fitness find a love for movement in a group setting.

Ariel has achieved academic honors which include: Dean's List | Eminence Fellows Scholarship | Stamps Scholar | SPHINX senior class honorary.

From Ariel's award nomination form: Beyond the OSU collegiate population, Ariel and Mariette Benage collaborated with a new Columbus high school, Cristo Rey, to create a science club where Animal Science Community Alliance members lead engaging hands-on activities while mentoring this minority population of at-risk youth. Ariel was instrumental in assisting to create interactive activities for the program that includes dissecting sheep hearts, gummy bear genetics, electromyography and agricultural farm tours.

One more fulfilling opportunity Ariel has taken advantage of is that after training Ariel ran the 2017 Columbus Nationwide Marathon. This was her first time running 26.2 miles, and the dedication to training while taking a full course-load, and working, was definitely a difficult balance. This was a feat Ariel feels she could not have accomplished without the support of her family and friends.

Following graduation, Ariel will attend The Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine with the goal of becoming a swine veterinarian.

Ms. Mariette Benage was selected as Ariel's mentor. As Ariel shares, "Mariette is an incredibly popular academic advisor within the Department of Animal Sciences. Students flock to her because of her willingness to go above and beyond the basics of scheduling classes. Students confide in her and discuss deeper issues such as personal struggles and future dreams in addition to advice on anything academics-related. Her class, Diverse Fields and Opportunities within Animal Sciences exposed me as a freshman to the amazing career opportunities in Animal Sciences and helped me to define my goals. Whenever I would doubt myself or my abilities, she would encourage me endlessly to keep striving and not give up. Mariette is a leader and advocate for all students and has been instrumental to my success as an individual."