

The Sixth of Twelve 2016 Steinbeck Scholarship Recipients



Thank you so much for the Steinbeck Scholarship! I am thrilled to have received it!

My name is Noah Hoech, and I am a freshman at Stanford University. I was born in Palm Springs, California, and lived there the first few years of my life. When I was four, my parents became missionaries and we moved to a tiny country in Central Asia. I don't remember much of the States, but also do not regret the move.

Kyrgyzstan is beautiful. With sheep walking down roads at dusk, marijuana growing on the sides of the street, and surreal mountain-background sunsets – I am proud to call it home. When I was born, both my parents only spoke Chinese to me (my mother is Chinese, father speaks it but is German). At 3-4, I started picking up English with Grandma, at church, and at pre-school. When we moved to Kyrgyzstan, I became immersed in Russian. I would have completely forgotten English and Russian had not my parents continued to speak it at home.

My mom started homeschooling me when I was 5. "So you can go to college in America," she said. When I was 7, I started 1st grade at a local Russian school. There, I also began studying the Kyrgyz language. And all the while, I home-schooled.

I love learning languages! I translate often, but also enjoy speaking to people in their heart language. In high school I was very involved with one of the only fellowships in my town. I served other teens and kids by teaching breakdancing. I also became involved at my local school, and became the first American in my town, if not in the country, to graduate from a non-international school. In my senior year I became school president.

My passions are simple: I love the Lord. I consider my acceptance at Stanford a miracle, and a calling to be a light to a dark campus. I am currently undecided, but this quarter I took a Computer Science course and a philosophy/literature course. Ultimately, I want to be an LCMS pastor. Whether God will call me to serve overseas or in the States I do not yet know.

Thank you so much for all your wonderful support! Keep up the good work!

Blessings,
Noah