

COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Representing the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet.

April 2016

Meet Annie Looman, 2015 CIRCAC Scholarship Recipient

Annie Looman credits her high school advisor, Jane Eisemann, for nudging her to apply for the CIRCAC scholarship and pursue her goals. Jane, now retired, taught Natural Resources at Kodiak High School. It was Jane who introduced Annie to the Envirothon, competitions that focus on natural resources with an emphasis on five different areas: soil, aquatics, wildlife, forestry, and a current topic. With Jane's support, Annie competed at both the local and state Envirothon competitions, and won at state. She also competed at the North American Envirothon along with most of the 50 states and Canada. What she learned about soils and aquatics stuck with her. After graduation from Kodiak High School, Annie decided to pursue natural resource studies at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Now completing her first year in natural resource management, Annie said the CIRCAC Scholarship has given her more financial security and more time to concentrate on her classes. She has discovered that she'd like to work with the public and is considering a minor in sociology. Annie's interest is in the "why" of science. She is most enthusiastic about science education and interacting with students and the public.

"I am excited about how people respond when they understand something they didn't think about before and put 2 and 2 together. I have thought about teaching but not right out of college. Right now, I am considering doing an exchange program in another state or international exchange with universities in Canada," she said.

Annie also credits her advisor with introducing her to the Future Farmers of America, which is what she does for fun. "I wouldn't have gotten as involved without Jane," she said, "but now I'm hooked." The FFA is a student-led organization with more than 600,000 members nationwide and 200 in Alaska. As a state officer, Annie has spoken to the Alaska Legislature and has led leadership workshops. FFA has also given Annie the opportunity to hone her public speaking skills in the Environmental and Natural Resource national competition, in which she reached an individual Gold Level and her team won a silver medal.

In applying for the CIRCAC Scholarship, Annie said she is gaining a greater awareness of CIRCAC, its mission, and the importance of taking preventive measures. "The scholarship taught me about CIRCAC and its role as a citizen representative," Annie said. And as a result, she is even more invested in what she was doing—and in making a difference.



CIRCAC

8195 Kenai Spur Highway
Kenai, Alaska 99611
www.circac.org

Phone: 907-283-7222
Fax: 907-283-6102
Email: circac@circac.org

