



Ashleigh Montgomery
Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
2020 James D. Collins Award Winner

The faculty of the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences are proud to present this year's James D. Collins Award to Ashleigh Montgomery. Ashleigh is a senior Environmental Science major, with a minor in Biology, who has been an outgoing representative of our department. Not only has Ashleigh excelled academically in our rigorous program, maintaining a top GPA, she has been extremely ambitious, self-driven, and enthusiastic in her undergraduate research efforts. For the past 1.5 years, she has been studying the effects of road deicing salts (which can be toxic to plants and freshwater organisms) on soil ecosystems. Ashleigh has found that salts are often stored in soils for weeks after applications to roads, allowing for contaminant release to freshwater resources over long periods of time. To support her research, she wrote a proposal to the SLU College of Arts and Sciences' prestigious Knedler Student Research Fund and was awarded funding. Ashleigh was also selected to represent our department for the SLU Senior Legacy Symposium because of her outstanding research efforts. Outside of the department, Ashleigh has also served as an undergraduate teaching assistant, representative of the Sustainability Committee, and member of Una the Feminist Voice. Following graduation, Ashleigh will be a summer intern for the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center. She will be attending the University of Tennessee as an Environmental and Soil Sciences M.S. student in the fall. Congratulations, Ashleigh! You have worked tirelessly on your academics and research through your undergraduate career at SLU. This award is well-deserved.