

Before I started attending college the summer of 2017, I was employed as a server. I really liked working with a diverse group of people, I enjoyed the fast-paced environment, and I enjoyed the money I made. All my life I have had a passion for helping people and while I was employed as a server, I was able to help my family out quite a bit financially. Then something life altering happened. In 2017 my father was diagnosed with cancer. The medical images revealed all the organs the cancer had silently taken residence within. I went with him to his appointments, imaging, oncology, chemotherapy and radiation therapy and recall how hopeful he was after he met his care team. I knew then that I needed to do something more with my life. I wanted to help other people the way my father was being helped. I wanted to help give someone hope. Being selected to participate in the Student Leadership Development Program affords me the opportunity to meet and network with other like-minded individuals. I will use this opportunity to learn the most efficient way to continue my education in mammography, computed tomography, and radiation therapy. This opportunity will help me achieve my career goals of contributing knowledgeable, effective, and quality healthcare not only within my own community here in Alaska but also abroad when I volunteer in the Mercy Ships program after I have gained the experience required to apply for that program. My participation in the Student Leadership Development program will further the mission of the AKSRT by connecting me with the resources and knowledge needed to further my education and in turn bring the knowledge gained back to my community. I will use this experience to learn how I can get involved and work within my community to advance patient care and radiation protection. I would also like to learn how I can help advance state mandated certification for radiographers. I would like to use this opportunity to learn how I can get involved in becoming a traveling Radiographer during natural disasters and I would like to bring all of the knowledge gained back to my fellow students and help educate my classmates in the topics that they find interesting.