

December 6, 2021

Dear Mr. Bob McKinnon:

RE: Thank you for your support and generosity

I want to first start by saying I am deeply humbled to have received the *Jonathon and Joshua Memorial Award*. The work done by yourself, and the Memorial Fund is providing a strong foundation for Graduate Student Success here at Western.

For me personally, receiving an award given by a donor who has lost family to brain disease has the most meaningful impression. Although a different disease, I too lost someone I deeply cared about. My grandfather. Experiencing his loss of function and extreme mental and cognitive decline had a profound impact on me. Every day I am motivated by the people we care(d) about to understand more and do better.

Lastly, I want to again thank you. Receiving an award like this as a Graduate Student allows me to put more time into my work and eases the financial burden that many of us students face. This truly has made a difference in my final year here at Western and I know your work will continue to benefit many students to come.



Sincerely,



Matthew D. Demmings
Ph.D. Candidate