

## Alexa Vogel

### Bachelor's Degree, Environmental Science with a concentration in Biology, 2016



Alexa came to the University of Toledo from Warren High School as a National Honors Society student. She continued her academic success at UT earning the Tower Scholar Award, Lilo Wendel Scholarship Award, Environmental Science C.W. Wolfe Scholarship, and Elmer R. and Gertrude M. Brigham Scholarship in Science. As Alexa pursued a degree in environmental science, she conducted undergraduate research investigating the role of invasive plant species management on native species. She analyzed a long-term rare plant monitoring data set from the Oak

Openings region for species abundance, richness, and diversity. She found that aggressive management of invasive species had a neutral to positive effect on rare plant species.

During her time at UT, Alexa volunteered for Partners for Clean Streams in the Olander Park System in Sylvania. This included invasive plant species removal, herbicide treatment, plant community monitoring and surveying threatened and endangered plants and animals. During three years, she also worked for our Department of Environment Sciences as an office assistant. Her academic and volunteer experience qualified her to become the Sierra Club's Clean Water Fellow from 2014 to 2016. As a Fellow, she was responsible to involve local citizens in regional water issues by providing water testing kits and contacts in case of pollution incidents.

Alexa graduated the spring of 2016 and became a research and monitoring intern for the Metroparks of Toledo. There, she oversaw endemic species research within the Oak Openings region by coordinating with Metropark volunteers for rare plant, bat, and butterfly monitoring. In addition, she designed a schedule for monitoring rare plants based on 20+ years of data and created multi-layered maps using ArcPad to identify locations of invasive, uncommon and state-listed plants in this unique and diverse ecosystem. Currently, Alexa works as a field technician for Niswander Environmental on environmental solutions for municipalities, non-profit organizations and transportation agencies. She is stationed in Brighton, Michigan.

"The education I received from the University of Toledo gave me a competitive edge in the job market. The skills and knowledge I learned prepared me for lots of career options."