**Kayla Townsley**

4826 N. Montana Avenue, Portland, OR 97217

602.284.9980

[ktown2@pdx.edu](mailto:ktown2@pdx.edu) | [townsley@ohsu.edu](mailto:townsley@ohsu.edu)

**BACKGROUND**

Portland State University Honor’s Sustainability Scholar and NIH BUILD EXITO scholar majoring in micro/molecular biology and minoring in chemistry and art practices with a focus on painting and drawing. Plans to obtain a Ph.D in Neuroscience with the goal of conducting research and teaching at the graduate level. Current research interests include the relationship between epigenetics, brain plasticity, and mood disorders, focusing specifically on the comorbidity between substance abuse disorders and affective disorders.

**EDUCATION**

Portland State University – Portland, OR

BS in Micro/Molecular Biology, Minor in Chemistry, Minor in Art Practices Graduating March 2018

Cumulative GPA: 3.89

Major GPA: 4.0

**HONORS**

Out of State Opportunity Scholarship – Portland State University Sept 2014 –Present

Great Lakes National Scholarship – Great Lakes Federal Loan Department Sept 2015 – Jan 2016

Sept 2016 – Jan 2017

Mildred & John Ratto Scholarship – Portland State University Sept 2016 – June 2017

Oregon Business & Professional Women’s Foundation Scholarship Sept 2017 – March 2018

National Residence Hall Honorary Society (NRHH) May 2015

National Honor Society Aug 2014

Portland State University’s President’s Honor List Fall 2014 – Winter 2016

Winter – Spring 2017

Portland State University's Dean’s Honor List Spring 2016

University Service Award – Portland State University June 8, 2016

NIH BUILD EXITO Scholar Program – PSU College of Liberal Arts and Science May 2015 – Present

Sustainability Scholar Program and Scholarship – University Honors College June 2015 – Present

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Research**

Portland VA Medical Center – Department of Research & Development Aug 25, 2016 *–* Present

(10-25hrs/wk, 577 hours to date)

Student intern in Dr. Angela Ozburn's lab at the Portland VA Medical Center and experiential volunteer at OHSU. Currently engaged in research that examines the neuro-molecular mechanisms that underlie addiction, and the mechanisms mediating circadian gene effects on drug and mood-related disorders. Specifically, the influence of altering brain activity of the Nucleus Accumbens in mice on alcohol-related behaviors. (<http://ozburna.wixsite.com/boutique-rec-lightbo>)

Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU) – Department of Behavioral Neuroscience July 10, 2017 *–* Present

(10-15hrs/wk)

Research assistant and OHSU non-student employee as a secondary position in the Ozburn lab outside of NIH Build Exito internship.

**Academic**

Field Course in Tropical Conservation and Ecology – Gamba, Gabon July 16 – Aug 12, 2016

(816 hrs)

Worked in Gamba, Gabon in a French immersion course with students and faculty (from Gabon and elsewhere across the United States). The course focused on tropical conservation and ecology field research and was run through the University of New Orleans and the Center for African Biodiversity (CAB) Alliance. My research focused on studies of body index and diet of dwarf crocodiles dwelling in the saltwater lagoons.

Recombinant DNA Research Lab Course – PSU Department of BiologyJan 2016 – June 2016

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Conference Abstracts**

EJ Firsick, ADT Tran, R Wilson, **KG Townsley**, JC Crabbe, and AR Ozburn(2017) *Increasing Activity in the Nucleus Accumbens Core Results in Prolonged Reduction of Binge-Like Drinking in HDID-1 Mice.* OHSU Research Week – Portland, OR.

EJ Firsick, ADT Tran, R Wilson, **KG Townsley**, JC Crabbe, and AR Ozburn(2017) *Increasing Activity in the Nucleus Accumbens Core Results in Prolonged Reduction of Binge-Like Drinking in HDID-1 Mice.* OHSU Department of Behavioral Neuroscience Retreat – Portland, OR.

EJ Firsick, ADT Tran, R Wilson, **KG Townsley**, JC Crabbe, and AR Ozburn(2017) *Increasing Activity in the Nucleus Accumbens Core Results in Prolonged Reduction of Binge-Like Drinking in HDID-1 Mice.* Portland State University Annual Research Symposium – Portland, OR,

**KG Townsley**, T Batish, S Kanadibhotla, EF Firsick, ATD Tran, W Hack, JC Crabbe, and AR Ozburn (2017) *Effects of chronic binge-like alcohol drinking on Pde4 gene expression in the nucleus accumbens.* PSU Build EXITO Cohort 1 Research Symposium – Portland, OR.

**KG Townsley**, T Batish, S Kanadibhotla, EF Firsick, ATD Tran, W Hack, JC Crabbe, and AR Ozburn (2017) *Effects of chronic binge-like alcohol drinking on Pde4 gene expression in the nucleus accumbens.* Society for Neuroscience Annual Conference – Washington, D.C.

**Undergraduate Thesis**

**KG Townsley**, "From STEM to STEAM: The Neuroscience Behind the Movement Towards Arts Integration in K-12 Curricula" (2017). *University Honors Theses.* Paper 446. <http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/honorstheses/446>

**Journalism**

**KG Townsley**, “The neuroscience of teaching art & science”. *Noggin Bloggin*. Web. April 18, 2017. http://nwnoggin.org/2017/04/18/kayla-townsley-the-science-of-art-science/

**KG Townsley**, “How Douglas Adams’ ‘The Hitchhiker’s Guide to The Galaxy’ Challenges the Conceptualization of the Cosmos” (2017). *IEEE Earthzine*. Monthly Focus Topic 2017. Web. https://earthzine.org

**KG Townsley**, “Decoding the Lives of Marine Wildlife: Using the Argos Satellite System to Understand the Ocean” (2016). *IEEE Earthzine*. Coastal Environments 2016. Web. https://earthzine.org

**KG Townsley**, “The Trouble with Trees: Volatile Organic Compounds Exacerbate Climate Change and Air Pollution” (2016). *Earthzine IEEE Publication*. Socioeconomic Benefits 2016. Web. https://earthzine.org

**KG Townsley**, “Portland State to hypocritically renew Aramark contract” (2015). *The Pacific Sentinel.* Portland State University Student Media. Print

**COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE**

Volunteer/Intern – Reproductive Justice Action Team – PSU Women’s Resource Center Sept 2014 – Present

(1-3 hrs/wk)

Long-time volunteer and current co-chair of the Reproductive Justice Action Team (RJAT) of the PSU Women’s Resource Center. RJAT is a student-led group on campus that promotes reproductive justice and equity. Reproductive justice works to support the rights of people to make their own decisions regarding their reproductive and sexual health and to have access to knowledge and resources to help make those decisions. We promote reproductive justice and autonomy for all persons. (Associated events/projects:100 Days, 100 Voices Photo Project ([www.facebook.com/100days100voices](http://www.facebook.com/100days100voices)), PSU Take Back the Night, World AIDS Day, Sexual Consent Workshops, STI/STD Awareness Workshops, Planned Parenthood Panel, DVAM Community Conversation)

Resource Council member for STEAM Assessment – NW Noggin Nonprofit Nov 2016 – Present

(2-5 hrs/week)

NW Noggin (Northwest Neuroscience Outreach Group: Growing in Networks, [www.nwnoggin.org](http://www.nwnoggin.org/)) is a largely volunteer driven non-profit organization that brings scientists and artists and students of all ages together to share their expertise, enthuse young people about science and art, share area educational resources, and inform and excite the public about ongoing, taxpayer supported neuroscience research. My position focuses on developing art-based educational assessment for the classroom as well as collecting and analyze survey information from educators and collaborators.

Resident Academic Mentor – PSU University Housing and Residence Life June 2015 – June 2016

(25+ hrs/wk)

Responsible for fostering a supportive learning environment for academic and personal success in the  residence halls, and for providing leadership, information and resources to residents. Responsible for one on one mentoring of up to ten residents on academic warning each term. Provides valuable experiences for residents that retain and support students through graduation and promote achievement, character development, academic engagement and independence. Gained experience with communicating within a diverse community and practicing active listening.

Learning Assistant – PSU Department of Biology Sept 2016 – Dec 2016

(2-5 hrs/week)

Facilitated classroom activities in the Principle of Biology introductory courses at Portland State University under the guidance of Radhika Reddy, P.h.D and Brett Younginger, P.h.D candidate.

Student Intern and Volunteer – PSU Student Sustainability Center Sept 2014 – June 2015

(10hrs/wk)

Intern for the Publications and Social Media Task Force working on a diverse and collaborative team, contributing creative ideas and developing sustainability programs. Experience with social media, communications, networking, and publication for sustainable initiatives on campus. Exposure to variety of leadership strategies and practices within the Sustainability Volunteer Program.

NRHH Student Board Member – Portland State University Sept 2015 – Jan 2016

Volunteer – Littman & White Art Galleries Sept 2016 – Dec 2016 Volunteer – Welcome to America Project – Phoenix, ArizonaDec 2012 – June 2014

**OTHER EXPERIENCE**

Lead Teaching Assistant – Carrie Curran Art StudiosAug 2012 – June 2017 (Seasonal)

Teacher’s assistant for after school children’s art classes, children’s summer art classes, adult and family art classes at the studio. Train new employees, paint step by step paintings for adult and children’s classes, develop art projects and curriculum for the children’s camps. Organize studio space and responsible for clientele coordination and communication, scheduling, payment, and administrative work when manager was absent. Social media and promotion for studio events.

Volunteer Contributor – Earthzine IEEE Publication Nov 2015 – June 2017

(5+ hrs/month)

Volunteer contributor and science writer for Earthzine, an IEEE publication funded by NASA and IEEE’s Oceanic Engineering Society

Independent Contractor – PSU Student Media Center Sept 2014 – June 2016

(2-3 hrs/week)

Canvasser – Oregon Fund for the Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG)Dec 2014 – Feb 2015

(16-20 hrs/week)

Worked as a fundraiser with the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group and the Public Research Fund. Worked to support legislation that would ban the use of antibiotics in factory farms across the United States. Developed communication and customer service skills, built raised awareness, and raised money for grassroots organizations.