

# University of Washington School of Medicine

## Targeted Rural and Underserved Track (TRUST)

Port Townsend, WA

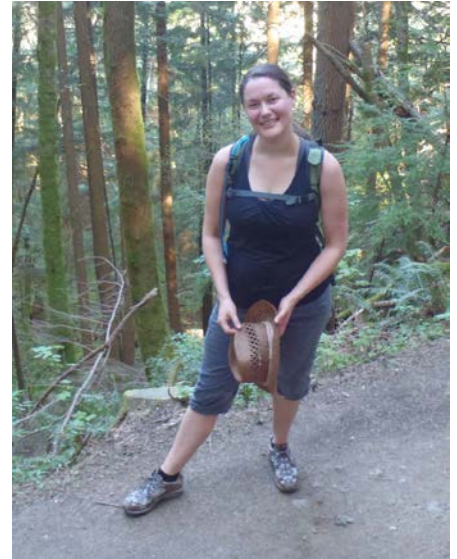
June 2013

My name is Autumn Walker and I am a native Washingtonian. I was born in Everett and resided in Snohomish County for most of my younger years. I am the second oldest of seven children, and believe that my enjoyment of social settings stems from my being raised in a busy household. I graduated from Mariner High School in 1998 and have recently completed my Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Washington. I am very excited to be continuing my education as a TRUST scholar at the UW in the School of Medicine.

I have moved around a bit in my life and enjoy visiting different places. I lived in California for four years after high school and tried to figure out what I wanted to do with myself. I travelled a bit around the lower 48 states during this time, and also nurtured my fascination with science and nature by visiting museums and reading books. In 2007, I spent a few months in rural Pass Christian, Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina working on a construction crew rebuilding houses. I lived in a house next to the bayou and had crocodiles for neighbors. During my undergraduate education, I was fortunate enough to have gone on two study abroad journeys. In 2005, I spent a quarter in Florence, Italy, and studied language, art, culture, and history. Every day I would ride my bike on the way to school and pass the Academia, the museum where Michelangelo's David resides. In 2011, I visited for a month on Kosrae, a small island in Micronesia, and studied oceanography, conservation and culture. Here, I learned to weave baskets using palm leaves and became familiar with tree species and wildlife that are present in mangrove forests.

In my spare time, I love being active and enjoy dancing, hiking, cycling, yoga and anything that is on or in water, be it kayaking, boating or swimming. I also enjoy theatre, and have acted, assistant directed and choreographed works that have been performed on stage.

As for my interest in being a physician, I was initially drawn to the field of medicine because of my interest in the sciences and my desire to use this interest in my career. As I completed my undergraduate education, I learned about inequality and poverty, especially in regards to health outcomes. As a result, I have decided to pursue the study of medicine with a focus on underserved and rural populations. I am very happy to have been accepted into the TRUST Program at the UW School of Medicine as it is well suited to prepare me for the career that I want to have. I envision myself specializing in Family Medicine, mostly because I will be able to serve a diverse array of patients. I am also interested in understanding more about how health care systems operate and hope that the TRUST Program can teach me more about that as well. I look forward to seeing how much I grow and change over the next four years as a Trust scholar at the UW School of Medicine.



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