

My name is Kristin Moen, I am a student at OHSU in the DNP PMHNP program.

Three generations of my family, my great-grandpa, grandpa and my dad all were ironworkers who built many bridges and buildings in the Northwest, from the bridge of the Gods in the gorge, to the spires on the convention center, I see the beautiful results of their hard work all around Oregon.

In the 1970's our immediate family moved from Portland to the rural community of Eddyville, Oregon, located in the coast range in Lincoln county.

I started 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and attended thru high school graduation with my 11 classmates at Eddyville school.

I was the first person in my family to ever go to college when, after graduating from Eddyville High school I attended Linn-Benton Community College for one year.

Then, after being a stay-at-home mom for 10 years, I wanted to get an education. In 2015 I graduated from WOU with a BS in psychology. After that, I got a job at Polk County working as a case manager for people with severe and persistent mental illness. Being familiar with the cultural nuances that exist in rural communities, I was easily able to establish rapport with the individuals we served. Serving those with mental health issues in rural Oregon is now my passion.

The SHOI scholarship is incredibly valuable to me because it will allow me to be a PMHNP in rural Oregon while incurring less than half the debt I would have had to pay back if I didn't have this gift. Most importantly, I would have had to find a job in private practice to be able to afford the loan payments if I didn't have the SHOI.

In private practice I would not have been able to care for rural Oregonians, or those on Medicaid (OHP). As you are all aware, there is a dire need for mental health prescribers in rural Oregon. Your support of the SHOI scholarship is a way to continue to build the workforce in these areas. And with continued support of SHOI, the indirect benefit to many social services ripples out and creates savings in other areas. I can not thank you enough for your continued support of the SHOI scholarship.