Justin Pickard

Bellingham, WA

Education

2016-2018   *University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.* Awarded M.S. in Plant Science
Thesis title: *Investigating the Distribution and Diversity of Leptosphaeria maculans in Northern Idaho*

2011-2016   *University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.* Awarded B.S. in Agricultural Education
Completed student teaching per requirement for Idaho Teaching Certificate.

Experience:

2023-2024   *Washington State University, Mt. Vernon, Washington.* Maintenance Mechanic 2.
Performs preventative maintenance and repairs on all types of mechanical and laboratory equipment. Performs preventative maintenance such as oil change, lubrication, fix flats, repair lights, replace fan belts, etc., on shop equipment, vehicles and construction equipment. Performs maintenance, operation, and repair of electrical, mechanical and structural systems of buildings. Monitors safety, fire protection and environmental control equipment to ensure the building systems and equipment are operating in a satisfactory condition. Responds to service requests and secures necessary assistance. Takes preventative and emergency action to control malfunctions. Operates hand tools, power tools and other shop equipment; performs welding and metal fabrication; fabricates materials and equipment. Remodels and constructs facilities in accordance with project requirements. Repairs windows, doors, screens, floors, floor coverings, and painted surfaces. Installs, maintains, and repairs electrical connections, switches, circuits, electrical equipment, thermostats, and valves. Monitors function of onsite greenhouse facilities through SIEMENS and ARGUS control systems. Collaborates with science staff onsite to accommodate experiment needs. Operates heavy machinery and farm equipment in a variety of tasks.

2022   *Alturas Analytics, Moscow, Idaho.* Laboratory Operations Associate.
Follows defined user requirements for laboratory based on a thorough understanding of laboratory workflows, processes and procedures for using scientific instrumentation. Follows and maintains Alturas SOPs, TPs and industry standards for automation systems. Oversees and operates automation/robotic instrumentation. Schedules operation of equipment and anticipates needs for the efficient support of laboratory functions related to automated/robotic instrumentation. Customizes user-friendly workflows/protocols/programs and inputs data for automation systems as directed and anticipated from scientists. Maintains inventory of IS solutions, working solutions and stock solutions for GLP and non-GLP experiments. Focuses efforts to provide for long-term organization and cost efficiencies for automation systems and laboratory operations. In conjunction with Laboratory Operations Manager, acts as qualified trainer for new laboratory or operations support personnel. Performs or delegates support tasks for maintaining daily laboratory operations (preparation of solutions and reagents, cleaning, waste removal, etc.) Oversees and facilitates portions of the laboratory operations including but not limited to preventative maintenance schedules, removal of waste, etc. Oversees and facilitates preventative maintenance and temperature verification of laboratory equipment. Responds to Facilities audits regarding employee training and equipment maintenance.

2021-2022	*Alturas Analytics, Moscow, Idaho.* Laboratory Operations Technician.
Evaluates laboratory procedures and assists in improving
project workflow. Operates and maintains in-house robotic instrumentation. Supervises
equipment operation schedule for support of laboratory functions. Troubleshoots instruments,
collaborating with support services as needed. Writes python code to automate routine
laboratory tasks. Provides first tier software support at application level for end users.

2020-2021	*Alturas Analytics, Moscow, Idaho*, Lead Laboratory Assistant.
Maintained the laboratory in accordance with laboratory assistant tasks listed below by
delegating and or performing duties alongside other laboratory support staff. Responsible for
training incoming laboratory assistants.

2020	*Alturas Analytics, Moscow, Idaho.* Laboratory Assistant.
Maintenance of laboratory supplies, including purchase, receipt, stock, inventory, and disposal.
Prepared various reagents and solutions for laboratory use. Performed routine facility inspections
and maintenance on interior and exterior systems. Reviewed data reports for quality control.
Evaluated laboratory procedures and techniques to improve efficiency. Tracked and verified study
sample receipts in LIMS. Distributed Samples in accordance to GLP guidelines. Performed quality
control checks on sample destructions.

2019	*University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.* Arboricultural Laborer.
Pruned trees for aesthetics and overall plant health. Worked independently on landscaping
projects across campus. Assisted with arboriculture, clearing
trees of public safety dangers. Inspected trees daily and organized a list of tasks to complete.
Maintained chainsaws and pruning equipment.

2019	*University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.* Research Assistant.
North Idaho Agricultural Research and Extension. Helped student's research and design
experimental procedures. Educated new graduate students on existing laboratory protocol.
Trained part-time help to complete high precision experiments. Wrote scientific publications with
international collaborators. Created a detailed safety plan for laboratory. Appropriated space to
meet experiment needs for fellow researchers.

2016-2018	*University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.* Research Fellowship.
North Idaho Agricultural Research and Extension. Surveyed north Idaho for a fungal plant disease
that impacts brassica crops. Maintained and screened an extensive collection of fungal isolates.
Used PCR techniques to identify species and pathogenic genes by differential tests. Created a
screening process to identify pathogenic genes utilizing greenhouse facilities. Gave extension
talks and conducted seminars for public education. Collaborated with international institutions to
import restricted research materials.

2017	*University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.* Teaching Assistant.
Introduction to Plant Science. Planned daily lessons for existing college curriculum. Taught
multiple lab sections of 25 students with varying ages between 18 and 50 years old. Set up
hands-on lessons and monitored students during class-led experiments.

2016   *Preston High School, Preston, Idaho.* Student Teaching.
Taught class sizes of 25-30 students, ranging from freshman to senior students. Worked in a multiple teacher program. Created curriculum and conducted classrooms for: Agricultural Economics, Advanced Welding, Agricultural Welding, Introduction to Livestock Sciences.

2013-2015   *University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.* Research Assistant.
University of Idaho Wheat Breeding Program. Maintained research plots, involving data collection and herbicide application. Managed small teams of employees, planning daily tasks and weekly schedules. Communicated with farmer–cooperators about current and future research projects. Trained employees to successfully operate and maintain a variety of heavy farm machinery. Developed greenhouse management plan. Scheduled work for greenhouse bay to achieve correct pollination and harvest goals for thousands of wheat varieties.

2012-2013   *University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.* Research Assistant.
Vandal Meats Laboratory. Prepared animal carcasses for research and product marketing. Processed customer orders and assisted in product sales. Adhered to USDA guidelines and routine inspections. Analyzed daily working environments as part of HAACP plan. Learned general knife skills and maintenance of machinery.

Professional Development:

2021   IATA DGR 62nd General Awareness Shipping Hazmat by Air Training

2020   Python language, 2021 Complete Python Bootcamp, Pierian Data Inc.

2020   Watson User Training

2020   Laboratory Bio Safety Training

2018   International Conference of Plant Pathologists, Boston, Massachusetts
Presented research poster on M.S. research, Investigating the Distribution and Diversity of Leptosphaeria maculans in Northern Idaho. Participated in global panel for Leptosphaeria maculans research.

2014   Idaho State FFA, Twin Falls, Idaho
Planned and developed workshops for annual Idaho FFA conference. Promoted workshops to high school students to increase attendance. Directed educators for appropriate workshops. Collected data about attendance and analyzed trends to predict popularity of future workshops.