

BIOGRAPHICAL NARRATIVE
2022 ARCHES Fellow

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I was born on the island of Kaua'i in Hawai'i and raised on the island of Maui. My parents, Tracy and Isaac Lui were both born and raised on O'ahu and both came from diverse family backgrounds. My mother attended the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where she received a dual-degree in music and education. She then went on to become a band director at various schools throughout the state of Hawai'i and is now the principal of an elementary school. My father attended a community college to get his associate's degree and became a mechanic. Over the years he has since taken any opportunity to improve and advance his skills and abilities and is now the equipment manager at Mākena Golf Course. Even today, they continue to work hard every day to help provide for myself and my siblings. I open this narrative by talking about my parents because they both started with nothing and had no assistance in getting to where they are now. They have always instilled in me the idea of never settling and always pushing myself to do better and better. I've seen both of my parents do this in their careers which has inspired me to do the same for myself. Without the help of my parents who did everything that they could to provide the resources I needed to be successful, I definitely wouldn't be where I am today.

In the three years that I've spent at Willamette University thus far, I have had the opportunity to be involved in multiple organizations and take on many leadership roles around campus. I've recently had the opportunity to become the lead coordinator for our Community Service Learning organization where I've had the opportunity to work with various community-oriented branches and coordinate large events on-campus such as Martin Luther King Jr. Into the Streets and Global Day of Service. This is an accomplishment that I am proud of because I started out as a facilitator in one of the branches and during the time I've been there I was able to climb the ranks and become the lead coordinator of the organization. I've also had the honor of being chosen to be a tutor and mentor for students taking introductory chemistry courses as well as first and second-year Japanese students. Recently, I've also come into the role of a barista at our college's local coffee shop which will be a great opportunity for me to learn new skills and gain experience.

One of the major accomplishments that I've received during my time at Willamette is being admitted to the S-STEM Scholars Program which is funded by the National Science Foundation. Another accomplishment that I've received was being named a recipient of the Lola & Mervin Seeger Science Scholarship for two years as well as the Claude E. Chandler and Martin W. Grefnes Scholarship. Recently I've also been awarded the Teaching and Outreach Award which was awarded by the Chemistry Department, the Social Justice Leadership Award which was awarded by the Office of Spiritual and Religious Life, and the Cornerstone of Community Award which was awarded by the Office of Student Affairs at Willamette University. While I have been very fortunate to have had amazing experiences and opportunities to work with people who value my input and time, I continue to maintain the mindset that as someone who was given a lot, there are very high expectations put on me to go as far and work as hard as I can.