

I am currently a PhD student at the University of Nevada, Reno, conducting research with Dr. Yeongkwon Son at the Desert Research Institute. I am a second-year student, and my main academic goal is to obtain my PhD. I have been assisting in the development of an air quality network covering Washoe County. The data for the air quality network is obtained from low-cost sensors that Dr. Son and I built. The assimilation and comparison of this data with NASA aerosol optical depth (AOD) products is my research focus going forward until the completion of my PhD. This research is unlike other projects I have done in the past, which allows me to constantly improve my skills and develop new ones. Because of this, I want to focus on a research-driven career after graduate school. This may include continuing research on air quality or perhaps exploring a different project. Nonetheless, I am very passionate and curious about the environment we live in, which drives me towards a career focused on research. My research project for this year is to compare NASA AOD products with one another to see where my data can fit in and help bridge knowledge gaps to improve upon existing NASA products. This includes examining agreements between NASA AOD products during various seasons and locations, then comparing the results to my own data to identify the most influential factors on these agreements.