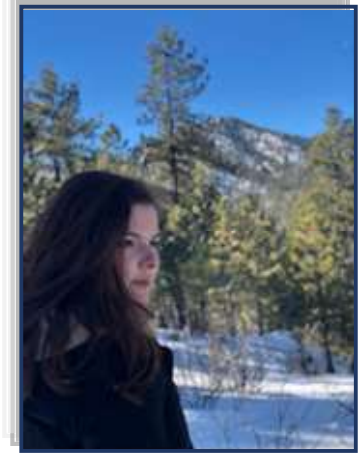


Thank You!

Erin Christopher



Recipient of

Avery R. Burton "Excellence in Academics and Sports" Memorial
Scholarship

First and foremost, I want to say thank you to the Avery Burton Foundation for honoring me with this scholarship. Over the course of 12 years, I have earned a 5.3 GPA, completed 11 AP courses and many honors courses, ranked 22nd in my class, and written 3 research papers I am immensely proud of that earned me the AP Capstone Diploma. Simultaneously, I battled chronic illness, lost my grandfather to cancer, nearly lost my dad because of surgery complications, and lived through a pandemic while having significant financial hardship. In order to succeed at the level I have, I had to push myself to my mental and physical limit, something I hope I won't have to do again for years to come.

Upon receiving the notification that I had received the scholarship, I looked further into the Avery Burton Foundation and I both am touched and feel seen. In dealing with chronic pain, my grandfather's death, and my dad's surgery, I definitely had my moments where I struggled with my mental health. In some ways, this scholarship is validation for what I went through - in its difficulty and as a testament to my personal strength, and for that I thank the Avery Burton Foundation. His story is one I relate to, pushing myself to continue to succeed at the level I know I am capable of despite my circumstances. The financial contribution is one element to the scholarship and it will undoubtedly help me in college where I will be proudly pursuing Interior Architecture and Design as well as Civil Engineering at George Washington University, but the recognition by your foundation means just as much to me, if not more.

*"Giving is not just about making a donation.
It is about making a difference."*

- Kathy Calvin

