I am a current doctoral candidate in the Integrative Biology department at the University of Texas – San Antonio working under Dr. Jeffrey Hutchinson. Prior to the doctoral program at UTSA, I received a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a M.S. from Towson University in Organismal Biology. During my academic tenure, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with the Smithsonian researchers focused on various anthropocentric topics in terrestrial and freshwater ecology. Furthermore, I have worked with researchers at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Towson University, University of Connecticut (UCONN), and the Ohio State University on research ranging from freshwater invertebrates, removal of invasive floral communities from the northeastern United states, small mammals community dynamics of Appalachia, to mesopredator reintroductions and trophic cascades in Ohio, and a myriad of other studies revolving around direct and/or indirect effects of anthropogenic activity on biodiversity. Currently, I have had the fortune to work with a leading scientist in ephemeral freshwater systems and develop/conduct research aimed at understanding environmental and biological threats of microplastic pollution. I currently serve as a full-time faculty instructor with Alamo Colleges in San Antonio and was awarded the NISOD Teaching award and the NVC Excellence in Teaching award. I am passionate about research to understand current and future biodiversity trends and getting undergraduate students involved with the scientific community. My hope is to share that passion with minority-dominant communities and diversify the natural sciences. Texas Academy of Science is an organization that truly aims to exposure undergraduates to, and engage undergraduates with, the larger scientific community.