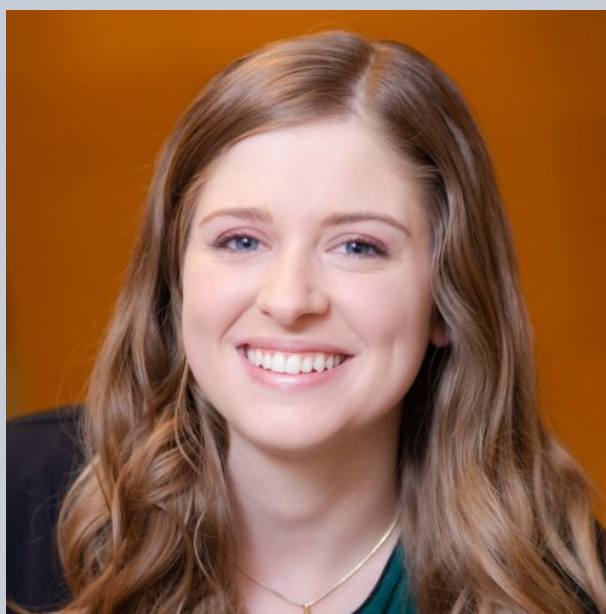


Sam Houston State University alumna Kendra Ireland has been awarded the prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.



In 2019, Kendra graduated from SHSU Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a minor in Biology. During her time at Sam Houston, Kendra was actively involved in undergraduate research; her research with Dr. Donovan Haines focused on the synthesis and application of photocaged substrates for heme-dependent cytochrome P450 monooxygenases. Currently, she is expanding upon her education and research interests as a PhD candidate at Emory University, working in the Davis Lab. Kendra's doctoral research involves the structural characterization of catalytically relevant heme enzyme intermediates, with a focus on systems important for regulating the human immune response.

The National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship is the country's oldest fellowship program that directly supports graduate students within STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math); this program recognizes outstanding graduate students engaged in research within the above disciplines. Awarded individuals receive a three-year stipend of \$34,000 with a \$12,000 educational allowance towards tuition. It should be noted that many past recipients are Nobel Prize winners.