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Dear Oregon GCSA PACE Scholarship Committee,

The first season I spent working golf course maintenance at Crosswater I was fortunate enough to meet a man who in time would have a big influence on my life. With a thick Scottish accent, Alan Green began teaching and training me about golf course maintenance. What Alan always did well is explain why certain techniques and practices are done, especially with smaller details. As the season progressed I began to ask more questions and enjoy the work I was doing. After a while of working with Alan I had developed a passion for it and every day I wanted to learn more and improve

Since my first season in 2019 I have had lots of life changes, with covid being a driving factor for it all. In the fall of 2019 I started college at OSU but when covid started I ceased my studies. I enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves and shortly after was on a plane to San Diego for bootcamp. As a reservist you spend a couple days each month with your unit, so when I came home after completing 9 months training I was lost on what I wanted to do. I spent some time exploring different jobs and college classes hoping to spark my interest.

This year I have been at Pronghorn working with a very motivated crew. Superintendent Max Levitch and 1st assistant Connor Olsen have given me so much knowledge on a wide variety of topics and for the most part it has been hands-on or visual learning. A terracyte application on the greens for moss, long term plan for poa cure, sod work on the greens, and a short-lived cut worm infestation are a few of the things I was able to learn about that stood out from this season. People Like Max and Conner helped spark my interest the same as Alan had.

Over this summer I participated in Pronghorn's intern education program and it was able to give me a wide scope and surface knowledge of the industry. The topics ranged from annual budgeting to spraying practices. The program helped me understand how much planning is going on beyond the daily tasks and what it takes to successfully maintain a course. Shortly after completing the course I decided that I wanted to have this be my career and began researching what is needed to do so.

I am interested in the PACE program because I want to begin my career in the industry. I want to learn the science of turf management and I love getting to work outside in a beautiful enviroment, and if I can get an education online I can stay with Pronghorn and stay in Redmond. As a young motivated hard worker with an obsession for striping up greens, I hope you consider me for this scholarship.

Thank you,  
Owen Johnson-Loving