Chuck Cody has worked for Washington State University for 38 years. His knowledge and experience truly shine in every action he takes. No matter the task at hand Chuck knows how to best handle it. His proficiency and dedication to high quality standards I now hold for myself too. Working for him has made me a better grower, a better manager and a better person. I am so grateful for this experience. He had confidence in me from day one and I have worked my hardest every day since to not let him down. He has let me take over the maintenance of the orchid collection, and I have never been happier with a job.

Introduction
My name is Justene Deubel. I am a senior at WSU. I major in Integrated Plant Science and minor in Horticulture. I transferred from Spokane Community college and have an Associates degree in Greenhouse Management. Plants are my life and this experience has been the most amazing thing any person could ask for.

The Botanical Collection
The 7th floor of the Abelson building houses the botanical collection. Quite possibly the most beautiful place at Washington State University. The Abelson greenhouse is so much more than just a greenhouse. It is used for Biology, Botany, Systematic Botany, Anatomy, Plant Identification, Photography, Art or just an oasis away from the hectic life of a college student (or professor). I have been trained to adjust the environmental controls using the ARGIS system. I was shown how to calibrate the fertilizer injector and the rotation of Nitrogen Phosphorous and Potassium combinations to use and when.

Public Outreach
One of my favorite aspects of this position is showing children our Facilities. Having the opportunity to show a kid Theobroma cacao or Chocolate comes from a plant! It has been a truly enlightening experience, I have gotten to meet some of the most intelligent children come in to see the collection and I walk away having learned a new fact about a given plant.

New Goals
In this position I was given many opportunities to learn new essential elements to my intended career. I learned about using biological controls to mitigate pest problems. Encarsia Formosa (Parasitoid Wasp) and Cryptolaemus (Mealie bug destroyer) insects are used to maintain the pest threshold within the greenhouse. Due to the nature of a botanical collection chemical spray is not a plausible option to maintain the safety of all of the plants in the collection. As well as (pre covid-19) we typically have student and faculty traffic through the Abelson Collection. The safety of our fellow COUGS is critical.

Research
One of the more exciting aspects of this position is that I have been able to help set up and maintain some of the most amazing research on plants. Model plant species like nicotiana and Arabidopsis to ginormous soybeans growing over 6ft in length. The best part of this job is the different things you can engage with on a day to day basis helps you learn something new every day.

My Mentor
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