

Beyond the Lab, Into the World

Greatness lies beyond the peaks
BYU is where I learned to seek
Knowledge, Invaluable skills, research ethics and resilience developed
Carried by the support of colleagues, staffs and mentors
They have lit my path to become a scientist and innovator.

With every flask, vial and pipette utilized
I see the beginnings of a future materialized
Every catalyst designed to speed-up a chemical reaction
Organic synthesis is completed to satisfaction
Over and over the reaction yields will grow
New chemical compounds are created and the more I know.

Real world problems solved by developing catalysts that enhance chemical reactions
The impact spans far and wide beyond its intended action
Lifesaving drugs made, food insecurity reduced with agrochemicals,
And sustainable energy materials now more accessible
Now the goal of global impact feels attainable.

Beyond the lab I found my place
As a teaching assistant and mentor to students around
A new passion for mentorship was experienced and found
Uplifting the next generation of scientists to ask questions and be independent thinkers
The cycle continues and communities begin to feel the impact.

At the heart of this experience lies faith and service
Though a chemist, using knowledge to serve a purpose
One that is greater than what we see but can be felt by those we serve
As I receive my beacon of light, I vow to go forth and serve.

-Daniel Odogwu