

2018 Irwin Zahn Spirit of Innovation - Candidate Nominee: XXXX

Background: Mr. XXXX is an accomplished graduating senior passionate about making a difference in underserved communities. He uses novel approaches to problem solve health disparities. He does not let roadblocks, setbacks, naysayers or limited resources stop him. Rather, he persists in the face of adversity, finding creative and often profitable solutions to address the issue at hand. Mr. XXXX regularly goes above and beyond to creatively address current and anticipated future concerns that others might not have envisioned. For example, recently the shipment of sports equipment to Zambia was delayed and misplaced in Zambia and he had to work with a variety of government organizations and NGOs to come together to move the shipment to the planned village, all from San Diego. "Fear of failure" is not a phrase in Mr. XXXX's vocabulary; he approaches every obstacle as an exciting challenge to be overcome. His innovative and entrepreneurial spirit is helping him advance toward a career that integrates his passions for Public Health, Political Science and Law to serve marginalized populations. **Mr. XXXX has a long and impressive history of leading novel approaches to address complex public health issues:**

- **Dual Major:** BS in Public Health and B.S. in Political Science
- Etta Sigma Gamma **Public Health Undergraduate of the Year** (2018)
- Gamma Upsilon Chapter of Phi Sigma Alpha (**PolySci Honor Society**)
- **Excellence in statistical analysis** on research projects
 - Multiple research presentations at SDSU's Student Research Symposium (Photo)
- **Fund Management & Fundraising Excellence (Funds raised - See photos):**
 - Executive Board Member: *Treasurer* - Students for Public Health Org – SDSU (2017-present) - Awarded \$20,000 SDSU Student Success Fee grant
 - Raised nearly \$800 for the AARP following the hurricanes (2017)
 - Raised nearly \$3,000 for SanD/Stone since 12.15.17 (~3 months)
 - Raised nearly \$2,000 in in-kind donations for SanD/Stone since 12.15.17 (Photos)
- **Founder, President & CEO of SanD/Stone a 501(c)3 non-profit** (Est. 11.28.17)

Spirit of Innovation & "Unusual Suspect": Among many, the best example of how Mr. XXXX exemplifies the attributes of the Zahn Spirit of Innovation award, in November 2017, he founded the **SanD/Stone Initiative:** <https://www.sandstoneinitiative.org>. The mission of SanD/Stone is to promote public health, education and food security among marginalized populations. As Director, Mr. XXXX has led operations for his non-profit around the globe, including: US, Mexico, and Zambia. He seeks to expand his mission as funding increases. It is Mr. XXXX's *moxie* that makes these huge strides possible especially for a young undergraduate student. Although he has experienced many roadblocks, he has not let a single one get in his way. He finds workarounds or different approaches until a solution is identified. **In summary, Mr. XXXX exemplifies the spirit of innovation by demonstrating:**

- **The Ability to Engage** multiple governments (US, Mexico and Zambia) and NGO's in SanD/Stone's efforts. He has had to find creative ways to get financial donations, supplies and equipment to the desired locations, despite governmental and logistical roadblocks. He developed the SanD/Stone website and is extremely innovative in his approach to fundraising (e.g., developing merchandise and other promotions to encourage donations, including the [Be a Hero shop](#)).
- **A Fearless Go-Getter approach** including being action-oriented, efficient, novel, & high quality.
- **Passion & Compassion** for using **evidence-based, innovative and significant approaches** to address important public health and social justice issues.
- **Natural Leadership** but practicing with an **inclusive & collaborative spirit**.
- **Quick translation of lofty goals into functional reality**

In short, Mr. XXXX is **unusual suspect**. He is an unassuming non-traditional transfer student who quickly excelled at SDSU, including starting his own non-profit that is making a difference in three communities.

