Seth Coursey, Northern Illinois University, for his proposal: *Cobalt solubility and partitioning in hydrothermal systems*

I was born and raised in Belvidere Illinois, just a 30-minute drive from Northern Illinois University. As a kid, I spent much of my time outdoors running around the neighborhood or at local parks, playing baseball whenever I could. I was always drawn toward science and research even though school was not my favorite activity growing up. After spending some time in the work force, I decided to go back to school with the hope of working in a field that involved the environment. By chance, I ended up in an excellent program with a great reputation, the Geology and Environmental Geosciences program at Northern Illinois University. I took Mineralogy and Economic Geology with my current advisor Dr. Mark Frank during my first two semesters and was captivated by the material. His passion for the subject and the experimental approach of his students’ research is what interested me most and propelled me to obtain a master’s degree. My research as a master’s student aims to help constrain the behavior of cobalt in Mississippi Valley-type hydrothermal fluids.

Cobalt is used for many sustainable technologies such as rechargeable batteries and superalloys for wind turbines and will be important for the creation of a sustainable future. My hope is future students can build off our cobalt research and in turn, will lead to the discovery of primary cobalt sources within the United States.