

My education has had an immense impact on my life and made me the person I am today. From an early age I always knew that I was different. While other kids were learning to read, write and express themselves, I struggled to keep up, barely treading water enough to keep my head above the surface. I spent hours doing homework and catching up on my studies while other kids got to play soccer or go to dance class. I almost gave up, but with the help of my parents, a few special teachers and my doctor, we figured out what was wrong and most importantly, how to adapt and overcome the obstacles that were holding me back. Looking back on it now, I feel like that period of my life and the struggles I endured helped me to become the focused, dedicated and compassionate person I am today, who dreams of becoming a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in the future.

After devoting so much time to my studies and overcoming those obstacles there wasn't much time left to just be a kid or make friends, so I'm thankful that my parents signed me up for Girl Scouts in Kindergarten. Not only have I made lifelong friends over the past 13 years, but I have learned and experienced so much while pushing myself beyond my comfort zone. I'm honored to have earned both the Bronze and Silver Awards by performing long term community service projects to benefit children locally and internationally and continue to work towards earning my Gold Award, which focuses on educating my community on pet health and care.

Along the way I have been fortunate to have exceptional teachers within the classroom, whose compassion, devotion and selflessness has made a difference in my life in countless ways.

From my elementary school days where my teachers saw me struggling but never gave up on me, pouring their heart and soul into helping me learn to read and were genuinely invested in my success, to middle school where I came into my own academically with the encouragement of many teachers who planted the seeds of my love of Science. The encouragement and dedication of these extraordinary educators has changed my life and made me the diligent and engaged student that I am today.

In high school as a member of the Marching Band and Winter Guard, my love of the performing arts was fostered by my Band Director and Color Guard Director, who saw my potential and encouraged me to build my confidence and be the best version of myself possible. They entrusted me with a leadership position and believed in me, even when I had a hard time believing in myself, which has made me a stronger person today. Some of the most important lessons I have learned and will carry with me for the rest of my life have been learned on the field under their direction.

Throughout school, while remaining focused on my studies, I have been an active member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Art Club, and Spring Musical Make-up Crew, which have enriched me personally and made me a better rounded individual. I have devoted many Sunday afternoons volunteering at pet adoption events, introducing dogs to potential adopters and enjoy the challenge of working as a Grooming Assistant where I am responsible for bathing, drying, brushing and trimming nails on all sizes and breeds of dogs and rabbits. These opportunities have taught me the value of hard work and have given me invaluable hands on experience with animals while learning the importance of being a team player, which will help me in my career.

I would not be the focused, dedicated and compassionate person I am today without my education. The solid educational foundation that I have received has made me not only a better student, but also a better person. This scholarship, if awarded to me, will help me continue my education and achieve my ultimate goal of becoming a compassionate and competent Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.