If someone had asked me a few years ago where I would see myself in 10 years, I would have confidently answered that I would be working as a nurse. This had been my dream since I was about six years old. My mother and grandmother were both nurses; my sister, at the time, was studying to be one. However, after volunteering at a local hospital, I had a rather large epiphany. *This was not the career field for me at all!* After my startling realization, I was hit with the looming question of what I did actually want to do.

Around the same time I started volunteering at the hospital, a family friend called and asked if I would be interested in giving horseback riding lessons to their daughter. I agreed, and began to teach lessons on my faithful first horse, Wyatt. In the process of teaching my first student (which would later become the first of many), I learned something about myself—I loved to teach. I loved to plan what I would instruct my student in next; I loved watching her progress. As I began to teach more people how to ride, I also began tutoring through my school. This was also very rewarding to me, and further convinced me that teaching was my passion. I have been blessed with excellent education all my life, and I began to long to share that experience with others.

In 10 years, I see myself teaching 7th or 8th grade Social Studies to my students in a classroom, helping history come alive for them. I see myself rearranging desks to create 13 colonies; I see myself teaching my students how the United States' independence was won through having them live their own rebellion against different sorts of "taxes" that I will set up against them in the classroom. I see myself encouraging students to make history their own, and teaching them that they all have a unique story to tell to the world. I see myself providing support to those who feel forgotten or unwanted by the education system and reaching out to colleagues and peers for support and ideas to always make our learning experiences better for

our students. I see myself pursuing higher education so that I can become a lifelong learner that is focused on improving myself for my students every day. But most of all, I hope to be giving back at least a piece of all the amazing education I received growing up.