

Why College is Important to Me
by Laura Gallagher

Education has always been important in my family. My parents both received higher education and showed me that knowledge is an indispensable gift. Thus, even as a child I believed that I would attend college. As I matured and began to realize my interests, my desire to continue learning beyond high school became, not only a result of my upbringing, but a reflection of my passion and determination to succeed.

By the time I was in the eighth grade, I had developed a great interest in environmental concerns. So sure was I of this focus that I was, and am, planning to make environmental science my field of study in college. Upon making this decision, the idea I had of college changed drastically. I realized that I want to attend a university not because my family and community expect me to, but because the education and experiences offered there will be essential to achieving my goals. College will provide me with a well rounded education and allow me to develop opinions in a mature, knowledgeable way. Ultimately, I believe that going to college will give me a greater chance of success in possible graduate-level education and future careers.

Undoubtedly, much of the appeal of college comes from its value after completion. However, it is not simply a means to an end. With four years of campus living ahead of me, I am looking forward to the experiences I will have at school itself. There will be many opportunities that are unique to a university campus and which will help me to discover new interests. Additionally, I hope to participate in campus organizations which will model working environments and give me a better understanding of my goals. I am excited at the prospect of participating in activities that will allow me to use my passion for environmental science beyond the classroom.

Similarly, as college provides a multitude of applicable life experiences, it also offers a range of ideas and opinions in the classroom. In attending college, I hope to not only gain the knowledge needed

to achieve personal goals, but to pursue an education for the sake of scholarship. The importance of college comes largely from the fact that students are exposed to various topics and viewpoints, rather than simply the subjects needed to work in a specific field. My belief is that college will provide me with an educated, and, more importantly, open minded view of the world. For this reason, it has an irreplaceable importance in my future.

In the past, college was important to me because others viewed it as a valuable experience and the key to a successful life. Fortunately, I have realized that my desire to continue my education is a result of personal ambition. In the end, college is important to me because it will provide me with a superb education and experiences that will allow me to meet new people, be exposed to unique ideas, and mature into an adult.