

Why College Is Important to Me

by Mikayla Monroe

Confucius once said, "... all good things are difficult to achieve; and bad things are very easy to get." Over the years, this has proven to be true. People who work hard and partake in arduous activities are ones with triumphant, happy lives; with hard work comes fitting rewards. As for young adults, some choose not to go to college yet are aware of the opportunity. To me, college is critical to attend before entering the "real world" because it presents an opportunity to pursue our dreams through challenging ourselves and preparing us for life as independent people, while at the same time engaging us with others and looking at the world around us from new perspectives.

First off, we students need to dip our toes in the water by getting a little college exposure. I am grateful to have toured the University of Hawaii at Manoa's campus this past summer with my soccer team, led by the Woman's Assistant Soccer Coach Marc Fournier. We were astounded by the size of the campus and by all the possibilities that surrounded us. There are choices like living on-campus or off-campus; playing a sport or focusing on school, and we get to choose based on our own needs and wants.

I view college as a milestone in life because I will enter somewhat naïve and looking at the world from a new, more educated perspective. My high school is diverse and has many different personalities; college is more internationally diverse with a larger population of students than high school. Meeting new friends offers cultured opinions from each individual. Additionally, there are a large number of classes that one will take while in college. And such a

variety to choose from! I can't wait to take these classes with students who want to learn and professors who are passionate about what they teach. After these experiences, I will exit college with an open mind and greater education.

College gives us the foundation in pursuing our dreams. We can specialize in a certain field that emphasizes key concepts we are interested in. It will provide us with the knowledge we need to work our careers at an experienced level. For example, there are hands-on programs, like the Marine Option Program, that allow students to work in the field – in this case, the ocean. Working like an experienced scuba diver is a way for students to determine whether or not they enjoy it. If not, they can always explore other options.

I simply cannot wait for college. The new classes, friends, clubs, and adventures will be thrilling experiences. After I take classes that prepare me for my ideal job I will be ready for it! I will continue to challenge myself while I'm in high school to groom my brain for college-level classes. *A few more years, I tell myself, just a few more years before college!*