

Why College Is Important to Me

By Kaleigh Yates

By nature I am a positive, caring and passionate person. I strive daily to uphold my core values of compassion, kindness and commitment by constantly seeking opportunities for their use. My pursuit of an education in Nursing is a direct reflection of my character and the values I hold dear. Becoming a clinical nurse specialist and providing medical care for a diverse community in need is my greatest desire. I want nothing more than to serve society in a medical capacity with the love, compassion and the expertise they deserve. Without a doubt this is my life's calling and impossible to achieve successfully without a proper education.

It is my belief that family values shape the foundation of who we are and I come from a long line of family that believes in education. From a fourth great-grandfather who served as the first school board president in Scranton, PA, a great-grandfather who completed his college education after surviving capture in WWII, to watching my own mother cross the stage as a 40 year old college graduate; we are a family that agrees "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."- Nelson Mandela.

As a recent college graduate, my mother represents a living example of the importance placed on education. As she was beginning college, my grandfather was diagnosed with terminal cancer. During this time I watched my mother remain committed to her schoolwork, while selflessly caring for her father and family. As my grandfather transitioned through the dying process, I learned a great lesson from my mother about commitment and compassion, and how they are equally important to a successful education. How very true for a career in nursing. "The giving of love is an education in itself." - Eleanor Roosevelt.

Ultimately the experience of my grandfather's illness impressed upon me the desire to become a nurse. Finding the best possible institution to prepare successful, highly qualified nurses became my top priority last year. After researching countless nursing schools, The University of Arkansas Eleanor Mann School of Nursing became the obvious choice for me. Their mission "To transform lives through nursing education and inspire leadership in nursing practice and academics to improve the health and well-being of society" has become my mission. I want to be a part of an institution that exemplifies excellence in education and meets my expectations for a quality education. It will be a great honor to uphold the high standards set by the University of Arkansas throughout my life and nursing career.

Upon graduating I plan to utilize my expert nursing skills in a career that will allow me to extend the love of Christ to all people as we are commanded: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this, all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." -John 13:34-35
