

Why College is Important to Me
by Alekses Clifton

When I was four years old, for Christmas I asked for a school bus. I didn't want just a replica but the actual vehicle to take me to school, and even after all these years, I still desire to be in school. Throughout my education many teachers instilled in me a lust for learning and sparked my interest in science. Sophomore year, when most students choose between biology and chemistry, I chose both. Wanting to immerse myself equally in each subject, I doubled my science course load and never looked back.

Science came alive to me this last summer in an amazing way when I served as an intern at the McLaughlin Research Institute. My experience allowed me to follow a query throughout its entire process. Going from a question, to the lab bench work, to data collection, to demonstrating the possibilities of future experiments provided an enhanced perspective that comes only with hands-on work. I love the idea that eventually the basic lab work of mounting tissue on slides and looking for proteins could one day help lead to discoveries to provide enough insight on Parkinson's disease to help patients suffering its effects. The doors that can be opened by science and my commitment to help open those doors leave me excited about a future in the medical field. I wish to enhance my understanding of science because I sincerely enjoy learning and a college atmosphere will foster my love of knowledge and that proves extremely important to me.

College will prepare me for the future not only in an academic way but in other manners as well. I'll continue developing my leadership skills and maintain my involvement in meaningful volunteer activities. The skills I'll receive from a college education will stay with me for the rest of my life and those values will always remain significant to me.

Obviously at this moment in time it is hard to know for sure what I'll do for the rest of my life. However, using the skills I developed during high school, I can make my own methods for success in college and beyond and I can't wait for the opportunity to do so. My studies and expanding my knowledge will remain paramount and I'll continue to concentrate heavily on academic growth. I'll also keep playing tennis and running to balance my physical traits with my mental ones. Throughout high school I became involved, grew intellectually, and cultivated my leadership abilities and I intend to harmonize my academic interests, collegiate extracurricular activities, and my own personal strengths as I develop as a scholar and leader after high school.

I possess a sincere desire for education and the study of the sciences and medicine. After all, knowledge unlocks the door to enlightenment. Committed, I work hard in order to grow intellectually. I am determined to make a difference and would be responsible with the opportunities granted to me. Excellence is a choice. And I am choosing it.