

Why College is Important to Me
by Jemikka Magpili

The famous red cups containing Beer, Vodka, Bacardi, Tequila and any other alcoholic beverages portray the college life in different television shows, movies and even social media. Within my age group of seventeen to eighteen, whenever someone mentions the word “college,” it seems to connote parties, raves, smoking weed, cigarettes and drinking alcohol. I, for one, thought at one point in my life that this is what it truly meant. Well, I thought wrong. Now, I believe that college is a part of life that I should overcome in order to further discover my self-identity, attain my dreams and expound my skills.

I’ve tried so hard to fit in because society’s pressure can sometimes be too much to handle, especially in high school. I’ve given in to recent fads such as skinny jeans and silly bands. I also got involved with agonizing social dramas and as a result, I started making fun of people I barely even knew. I tried so hard to be accepted by my peers that my grasp on my individuality slowly diminished.

How could I have possibly regained my self-identity? Around my sophomore year, I was going through the curriculum guide for my school and I stumbled across a banner on the book that said, “Technical Dual Enrollment.” It caught my eye and as I browsed through it, I saw an opportunity. I’ve always wanted to have a career in the medical field and be a surgeon. Conveniently enough, they offered a program in Orlando Technical College where I can finish high school with my Licensed Practical Nursing certificate. As soon as I started the program, the fads, social problems and distractions vanished. I was surrounded with people that had the same interests and goals as me. With that, it was easier to find myself because I wasn’t trying to conform to be accepted. I was already accepted.

Also, college will surely help me reach my dreams of becoming a doctor one day. Within the nursing program, we are involved with the hands-on care of real patients in different hospitals such as Lucerne Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center in Orlando. I’ve gained a lot of experience in dealing

with a variety of people, from babies to the elderly. Alongside with improving my skills, I've also interacted with different doctors. As I see what they do, my passion for becoming one gradually blossoms, but I know in order to get there, I'd have to go through a lot more years in college.

The importance of college to me significantly grows larger the closer I get to my high school graduation. It may take years to accomplish my highest goal but I know that I am ready to take on this challenge since I am very driven and I strive for what I want. Attending college is needed to help me become an exceptional doctor one day and this I will obtain.