

Why College is Important to Me

by Haylie Hertz

Joy is the fuel to success; live life moment by moment; feel good; and embrace change. Simple words organized into a list. And yet people have the habit of making life much more complicated than that. I must admit that I was one of those unfortunate lost souls who believed that life was full of stressful decisions and detrimental issues that humanity is forced to live with. However, if there is one lesson I have learned from my high school experience, it is that life is not a void of negativity; it is an urgent invitation to opportunity.

I have always been one of “those” people: the one who sets the curve on all the tests or presents the project that fosters jealousy. As honored as I am to have been bequeathed with this prestigious reputation, the truth is that it was arduous. I always gave myself more work than I needed to have because people expected me to go above and beyond. I’m not complaining; in fact, the strength I have acquired over the years is remarkable. I have pushed my mental abilities to new limits and stretched my world to reach extremes beyond belief. The best part is, I have enjoyed every terrifying moment as they came.

You see, I am one of “those” people who love challenging themselves. If I am not taking a risk, I am not living. I stare that challenge down right in the irises and I tell it, “You think you have what it takes to defeat me? You thought wrong.” I have conquered a philosophy class, the art of knitting, the unknown realm of Judo, the impossible nature of seven college-level classes in unison, the beauty and mysterious purity of music, and the pressure of acceptance to the college of my dreams.

A goal of mine is to maintain these challenges in my life, and this how I discovered my passion for biomedical engineering. Not only will I be able to expand my knowledge, but I will also be able to help people with that knowledge like never before. I want to change the world, just like any ordinary

dreamer. But my dreams are sincere, passion-driven, and obtainable. They will be sought and captured by utilizing my college education.

I suppose the past may seem secondary to a human nature that constantly yearns for the future. Nonetheless, the past is part of a person, and the importance of it derives from what it will do for that person in the future. My discrete history has given me gifts that are unique. It has taught me that I should embrace change; I should feel good; I should live life moment by moment; and that joy is the fuel to success. These lessons can apply to anyone and everyone, because they culminate to one quintessential theme; believe in yourself. Isn't this the purpose of college? And that, my friends, is why college is so important to me.