

Why College is Important to Me

by Kamri Flores

Several months before I was born, my four siblings were removed from my birth mother's care and placed into the Foster Care System. When I was twelve weeks old, I was also placed into the Foster Care System. My life course was forever changed because my foster parents loved me as their very own and adopted me.

Last year I read my Court Adoption Summary, and I now understand how my life could have been very different. My parents both have graduate level degrees, and they finished their Masters' Degrees while I was in elementary school. We did our homework together. I watched them work very hard, juggling their jobs, studying, and taking care of my sister and me. I have had many opportunities during my life because of their belief in the importance of education. I have been able to travel to many places, and all of my interests and passions have been supported and encouraged.

My birth mother lost her parental rights because she did not have the opportunity to receive an education. She was not able to develop the skills to be self-sufficient and care for her children. She instead turned to a life of destruction and substance abuse. I believe a college education will enable me to develop my passion for art and design, an area I excel in. I ultimately want to become an art therapist so I can work with children and help them work through their hurt and suffering through the medium of art. As an art therapist, I want to help someone else have a chance in life like the chance I have been given.

I have taken several classes in the IB Art Program during high school and I have gained confidence in my abilities as a developing artist. I most enjoy the graphite and charcoal mediums, and to have the chance to perfect my skill in college would be amazing. I have spent years in Destination Imagination and have competed at the global level several times. The most rewarding year for me was two years ago when we sponsored and coached two elementary school teams who made it to Globals. What I felt when I watched their screams of joy upon hearing they made it was indescribable. I will say it was one of the best moments of my life.

Helping someone achieve something they would not have accomplished without your help is an amazing experience.

I was given the gift of a loving family and I believe I know what it takes to be independent and also give back to my community. I believe a college education will help me to develop my artistic talents and use my passion for service to help a young child someday just as I was helped. Having a chance in life is a priceless gift.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.