

Why College Is Important to Me

by Sarah Nelson

From the mystery of gravity at the astronomical level to the tiny ecosystem living inside of you and everything in between, this great, big, beautiful world holds so much and I've spent my life hungering to learn about it, grow from it, contribute to it. College, to me, is not just the next step. College is not my sports arena or my social haven. It is not in existence to fuel my burning desire for independence. Don't get me wrong; I love those things. But college is more. College is education, and education is opportunity. It brings opportunity to learn of the world, see the world, help the world. And that latter part? That's my life dream.

I love every complex thing about life. I love economics, anatomy, physics, philosophy. But above all of that, I love people. Those exciting concepts are only conveyors of the knowledge that help us understand humanity, and when I learn of them at college, I will have a greater capacity to help. Every single person in this world is a beautiful being. They are so important to me and that is why it is so important that I learn how I can help, because somewhere across the world, an individual began at an economic disadvantage.

A child will never grow old enough to have the opportunity to change the world because there are not enough resources at their disposal or there is not enough medicine to protect their fragile bodily ecosystem. I have this passionate desire to help that person, not only because they may be the next brilliant mind and discover how to stop a splitting atom mid-reaction, but because they have more value than they could ever comprehend. I want to go to college because somewhere some young girl may never receive the education and opportunity that has been provided to me, but perhaps I could help change that. College can provide the basis, the foundation for understanding how a society develops or how a struggling health persists, and what would help.

I yearn for the chance to go to college, to question the world with like-minded people, because someday my questions will turn into some kind of answer, and that answer may put an economy back on its feet or allow someone to live many more beautiful years or protects us from ourselves and the destructive things we've created. I do not know where my questioning will take me. I do not know what impact my learning will bring. I do not know if I will end up minutes or days from home, but I do know that I have this uncrushable passion to go where I am called with what I have learned, and I want to learn so much.

College is education, and education is opportunity, and I would love to have the opportunity to bring that opportunity somewhere else. It's a great big, beautiful world that we live in and everyone should get the chance to experience it.