

Why College Is Important to Me

by Julia Edmondson

It can make the brightest day seem gloomy, the most piercing light seem dull, and the firmest foundation seem flimsy. The culprit: hopelessness. I have visited places in the world where hopelessness is contagious. It spreads like a disease, and it permeates every part of life. Walking down dusty paths and knocking on doors, I have seen it on the faces of children and adults alike. One of the causes of this feeling is a lack of education. Without a solid education, people are forced into a downward spiral of struggle and despair. This chain is difficult to break; it is a cycle that repeats itself until generations do not understand that there is an escape. I have talked and played with people that are stuck in this cycle, and I can testify that these individuals are beautiful. They are valuable and motivated and have the same desire that all humans are born with: the desire to learn and improve life for themselves and those they love.

Education is an opportunity that multiplies into countless additional opportunities. When people are enabled to fuel their desire for knowledge, they discover the ways in which they can further grow and thrive. Not only does education enrich the lives of those that experience it, but it also creates the ability for these students to impact those around them. When someone learns about the world and the people that inhabit it, they are able to make a difference. This is what I want to do. I do not have to make some incredible discovery that changes the course of human history. I just want to make genuine connections with real individuals that enable them to get one step closer to the dreams that they have.

Higher education will give me the ability to focus my studies on the areas that I am passionate about and open doors that are unknown to me. College will give me the opportunity to interact with people from contrasting backgrounds. I will be able to make connections and learn

from them. I will gain the ability to think in ways that I have never before considered and expand my view of the world. I will be able to make an impact, however small it may seem. I understand that the smallest things can have the most lasting consequences. I have seen those that are in need, and I want to help them. I want to bring them hope. I may not have all of my own plans for the future solidified, but what I do know is that I want to help others. Today, two areas of study that align with my passions and abilities are education and speech therapy. Either would grant me the expertise to help others expand their influence. I have an authentic and established love for people, as well as a longing to be in community with them and enable them to be their best. This is why college is so important to me. This is the reason that I live.