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15 June 2019

Scholarship Essay

Education has always been important to me. From an early age, my family taught me that with the right education I can achieve anything. While other students were deciding where to go college at sixteen and seventeen years old, I was already taking college classes in between high school classes so that I would have a head start pursuing the field of study I had chosen at eight years old. There is no better feeling than putting hard work into your studies and finding that it all pays off when it comes to getting As on your report card, receiving your college acceptance letter, and receiving beneficial scholarships. It is all proof that I can achieve anything if I dedicate myself to my studies. Each accomplishment puts me a step closer to my goal of receiving my bachelor's and master's degrees in Wildlife biology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Growing up in the village of Galena, I have watched countless students in my school have dreams of college at a young age and then give up on them the farther they go through high school. I want to receive my college degrees and move back home and work at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service to show these kids that their higher education goals are possible. Many students give up because of stereotypes that are set by their families that the students are raised on to think they cannot do anything after high school except find a job and start a family. I want to show that this is not true and that money issues are not a problem either if they keep their grades up and learn how to fill out all of the scholarships available to them. I also want to be a role model to show that you do not have to give into the peer pressure of drugs and alcohol that taint our communities. Too many bright kids abandon their studies because they will be peer

pressured or bullied unless they follow these bad examples. I want to show that they can rise above all the bad influences if not stop them altogether.

I also dream of being a wildlife biologist because it makes me feel more connected to the land I grew up on. My mom is also a biologist and every day after she would fly surveys, she would visit my grandma and tell her about the land she flew over and how the land has evolved and changes since my grandma was young. The connection to my culture is very important to me and flying over the land my grandparents and great grandparents grew up on trapping and hunting is a very special feeling. Our culture is still alive but fading as the next generations know less than the last about our traditions. I hope that the connection to my culture in my future career will help me to pass it on the future generations