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Youth Leadership Nominee

In my life I have had many interests, been involved in extracurricular activities, and have worked two jobs. My personal and family circumstances are unique and I strongly wish to attend college to fulfill my aspirations. My interests are part of who I am and how I spend my time. Many subjects and activities interest me in my daily life.

Varying interests have become a part of me. My main interests include: reading, swimming, photography, fishing, hunting, and art. I love the outdoors and enjoy spending this time with my family. Being active and participating with them has given me life experience and taught me how to handle situations. The outdoors lead me into photography when I started viewing amazing creatures while hunting. Wanting to capture these whimsical animals' actions was a good start to my photography hobby. Photography is a stress reliever for me and lets me think deeper about how an image can portray emotions to others. These emotions speak thousands of words and can brighten others' days. In school I learned emotions also played into art. Art is another interest that I enjoy for free time and relaxation. Drawing is a talent I stumbled upon when I took art my freshman year. Since then I have entered several pieces in competitions and even placed in a few. Another hobby that has always been an interest of mine is reading. Getting to travel and imagine another world in another's point of view is a unique experience. Every book comes to life in my mind and can help expand my understanding of the world and its people. Expanding my understanding and vocabulary has greatly helped me through life and school. Helping me gain other strengths would be swimming. Confidence was gained when I put my best in my activities and found success. I am not a

very coordinated person on land but finding that I was in the water brought me courage to compete.

Competing is an event that will happen in my life every day. Without competition the world would not go around. I have competed in multiple extracurricular activities. The first activity I participated in was track and field. I enjoyed being a shot and disc thrower and focusing on technique and concentration. Sadly, I was moved to a running position of the mile and two miles, I worked hard to keep up with the other distance runners. It was a hard goal for me to accomplish. My first year I kept up fairly well but then steadily declined my last year of track. I am a person that will try new activities but understands when it is not my forte. I attempted basketball my freshman year and found it was not for me. Finding that sports were not geared towards my strengths, I found Color Guard. Color Guard was a simple and fun activity that I picked up on fast. I was the captain this year and it was an amazing experience to lead a group in a synchronized manner. I am also a leader in various clubs. I participate in Student Council, Rotary Interact, and NHS. In Student Council, my role is being the President. I come up with the activities that my council does for the school. Many ideas of mine will be used this year for the school including: hosting a canned food drive, welcoming our freshmen class, and a coin war to raise money for Special Olympics. In NHS, I hold the Secretary position. My position involves sending out letters and informing our group when meetings are held. I also am the voice for our organization alongside our President. I have organized several events for NHS including: the new inductee ceremony and the Rose and Stole ceremony. Lastly, I am President of Rotary Interact.

With this club, that has just been running for two years, I have played a key role. I am the person that my sponsor sends out into the community to receive donations, talk to other schools, and talk to Rotary. I have spoken for Community Betterment judging through this group. Rotary Interact is working towards a trip to Haiti to build a school. We have enough money raised to build a brick school for the orphans and community. This building will be used for protection, schooling, and church. Right now we are fundraising for money to send students to Haiti to build the building ourselves. It is an exciting time to be in this group and I am glad I am a part of it. Being in extracurricular activities has taught me many life lessons that I cherish.

Learning life lessons is a big part of my job at the YMCA. I have worked at the YMCA for a year and a half as a front desk staff member and as a lifeguard. I have learned great responsibility from working. When I work I am in charge of a building and all of its contents. I supervise others and enforce rules. Working at the YMCA has made me more confident and social. I have grown and showed much improvement in the last year and a half. On the weekends at the YMCA I am responsible for cleaning the facility. This is a big task for one person but I have adapted and found ways to make quick work of cleaning. Skills I have learned at the YMCA might include: cleaning, handling money, customer service, and how to handle intense situations. This job has been a big part of my life where my bosses are very supportive and have great confidence in me.

My family has confidence and pride in me. I have a family of six with me included. My sister, brother, mother,

and father all live in the same house as I do. My family has built on an addition to our house for my grandmother to live in. My grandmother is a stroke patient that can no longer live on her own. Several years ago she had a stroke and was recovering, later she fell and broke her hip and my grandfather passed away which meant she came to live with us. My mother is a stay at home mom that takes care of my grandmother leaving her with little job options. My father is an EMT and a Paramedic at our local hospital and is training to become a RN. He is our only source of income and until he passes his clinical test he is left with training pay. I myself pay for my car insurance and gas and am working to save up money for college. I will most likely work in college to help pay off debt and for spending money for utilities. If I am unable to handle working and school together, which is possibly a good change, I will have to depend on my savings which is growing, but slowly.

Attending college has always been my intention. I applied to Culver-Stockton College and was accepted. I intend to become a nurse like my father in my younger years, and then proceed on to becoming a nurse practitioner later in life. My reasons for wishing to attend college are: to further my education, receive a better quality job that I enjoy and can allow me and a future family to live comfortable, and to find my calling in life and become a greater part of society.