

Victoria Gularte
Grade 12
Declo High School
Idaho

What Drives Me?

Being driven is one of the most important things to me. I have learned from my parents that being determined is one of the most valuable things anyone can have. They showed me the amazing outcomes that determination can have by being successful immigrants. My family migrated to the United States of America when I was a toddler. They traveled to a foreign country with no knowledge of English or what was to come. They persevered and made sure to instill their drive to succeed into their children. My parents inspire me everyday and push me to be better as a person.

As a kid I had many passions and interests, but never felt a sense of identity with any of them. As I grew older I was able to hone my interests. For example I now know I have a talent for playing instruments that include the saxophone and the clarinet. I also found a passion for FFA and livestock. I enjoyed being involved with my local agriculture community and competing at contests, but most importantly livestock showing. I have shown and raised goats for the past four years. I developed this love for animals through my parents who grew up on farms with many different animals. Even though these hobbies are a part of me, I absolutely love studying and excelling in school.

Some of my favorite courses are science and math which helped me decide on engineering as a degree. After meeting an engineer, I realized the only reason I have clean water in my house is because they checked that all local water pumps were working. This showed me the important work they do and made me eager about helping my town have a necessity of life. I

am excited to learn how to help others and learn about solutions to help the world. I am planning on pursuing a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering at Utah State University. Then I hope to attain a job in a wastewater or freshwater facility. At first, I was scared that maybe I wasn't capable of being an engineer, but then I remembered that I have my parents' drive. My parents helped and encouraged me to challenge myself, and to push myself even when things may seem impossible.

So when the question arises "What Drives Me?" I can answer with the courage and determination that my parents had. I admire the drive it took for them to pursue their dreams. I hope to make them proud by pursuing my interests as I get older and make changes in the lives of others and myself. My excitement to help other's lives and my parents' determination drive me everyday to be the best I can be and make a difference.