

Sarah Harris

12th Grade

Burley High School

Burley, Idaho

Teen Driver Scholarship

I am excited, and determined to seize the scholarship opportunities available to me because I know I have power to do great things. At a very young age, I greatly struggled to read, write, and spell. I tried very hard to learn those skills, but after much exertion, I failed to put letters and sounds together cohesively. I remember curling up in a ball on the floor and crying for months because I just wanted to read so very badly. I couldn't understand why my brain didn't work like the people around me, and I constantly bullied myself. In my heart and in my mind I believed the thought "I'm stupid". I soon learned that I have dyslexia. For me, symbolic sound/symbol connections would not come easily: reading would be an acquired talent. In that moment I knew I could become a good reader and writer, but I would have to work harder than my peers. A fire of determination lit inside of my soul.

From elementary school to high school I gave my 100% effort into hours of tutoring and classroom learning. I never gave up on my dream to read and write. I now take college-level English classes and BYU-Idaho concurrent enrollment classes to get a head start on my degree

(Apparel Entrepreneurship B.S.) and fulfill my dream of becoming a fashion designer. Dyslexia taught me how to dream. It taught me that I can do hard things, and love myself and my unique talents. I was not blessed with the talents of reading and writing: I had to push relentlessly to gain those skills. But I am a great public speaker, singer, designer, friend, leader, writer, problem solver, and compassionate individual.

Hard work has allowed me to turn the things I'm passionate about into a tangible reality. When I am faced with a challenge, I now approach it with large amounts of effort, determination, and confidence. Without my struggles, I would not be the best version of myself. I used to believe I could never be smart, but now I am reminded every day of how capable I am because of what used to cripple me.

My broken, wonderful, and well-loved past drives me to share my story with others like me who are capable of greatness but lack the skills to read and write. I want all kids with learning disabilities to discover courage to work hard and embrace their individuality. I know they can achieve great things. I hope to become a fashion designer who helps people to feel beautiful, and an inspirational speaker who helps people to see their true worth and potential. The higher education I receive will help me grow into the inspiring and educated individual I've always hoped to become: it will prepare me to change the world. Thank you for considering me for these funds. Next year you can find me at BYU-Idaho, chasing my dreams with the same determination that brought me this far.