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Year: 12

High School: San Juan College High School

State: New Mexico

Envisioning myself giving back and helping my community, that is what drives me. Being a dual-credit student definitely comes with many obstacles, setbacks, and stress. Yet throughout my high school and college education, my goal of giving back to my community has always stayed consistent, reminding me of why I am on this journey, and reminding me that every challenge will pay off in the long run. I am currently pursuing a degree in Pre-Pharmacy and transferring my credits to the University of New Mexico to join their PharmD program. Throughout my time in high school, I have learned to grow skills such as teamwork, determination, and communication, which have helped me progress in my education and develop lifelong habits that will assist me within the medical field. Growing up near the Navajo Nation Reservation, I observed and grew familiar with the many medical dilemmas that the Navajo people face including my own family and friends such as depression, diabetes, cancer, and more. I have observed firsthand how medication has had a profoundly positive impact on my family, helping them to live happier, healthier, and longer lives. Seeing the impact that medications have on people, I began to realize that I wanted to be the person who provides these remedies. I realized that health conditions not only affect the person facing them, but also the people who

surround them. This realization showed me that providing a remedy to these medical issues can also go on to benefit more people. These discoveries and observations led me to develop an interest in the pharmacy field, as pharmacies offer many treatments for the world's health issues, aiming to improve people's lives. I have always had a passion for positively changing people's days and especially, lives, and I know how much good that medication can do for the human body. Combining these factors, I realized that pharmacy was the right career for me. In addition to learning about pharmacy, a large part of my inspiration and drive is my mother, who has always taught me that hard work pays off. Throughout my life, my mother told her experiences of having integrity, courage, and determination, which influenced me to take on those same traits. My mother's encouragement, lectures, and support have given me the drive and discipline to continue my education and to ensure my understanding, leading to strong comprehension in any subject and all-around exceptional grades. When integrating each of my background experiences, such as observation, discovery, ethnicity, and teachings, my idea of pursuing pharmacy is further reinforced. By using the knowledge I was taught growing up, and using it to fuel my education and career goals, I can then give back to my community and anyone who requires medication assistance. If I can help improve one person's life, then I know that I can help countless others' lives as well, providing me with a great sense of self-fulfillment and drive.