

When I first decided that I was coming to Iowa State, I was scared beyond belief. I mean, I was finally going to be on my own, taking classes that were going to affect my life in the long run. I was scared that I wasn't going to make any new friends and just stay within the group of people that I knew in high school. I knew college was going to be a new experience for me, an experience that I wasn't sure I was going to be ready for. Little did I know that I was going to be in for a ride of a lifetime. In the year and half that I have been here, I have become friends with completely new people, gone to places that I never think I would ever go, and have chosen a path of study that I never had dreamed of studying. All in all, I made a decision that I will never regret, I absolutely love Iowa State and am so glad that I made the decision to come here. I am also excited to graduate from Iowa State one day with a degree and proudly represent my Cyclones, no matter where I choose to further my career. Which was all made possible due to the fact that I received the amazing Carver Scholarship because in all honesty Iowa was my first choice. I am so glad though that I decided to become a Cyclone and learn what it really means to bleed Cardinal and Gold.

The first reason that I love Iowa State is for the people I have met. I had no idea that I was going to meet all of these new people. One of my biggest fears in coming to college was not being able to meet new people. Right off of the bat during the first week of college, I participated in a group activity on my floor. We had to go around campus and find things to take pictures of for a photo scavenger hunt for a free pizza. I had no idea, that within this group of people, I was going to meet someone who I consider to be one of my best friends, who then introduced me to his friends, which then led to me having a group of guys who I consider a group of some of the

coolest people I know today! Through my year and a half year at Iowa State, I have met a multitude of people and many of them have taught me a lot of lessons about life. Some of these people have even helped me through some of the tough times that I have experienced in my time here at Iowa State. Having made friends is not the only thing that I love about Iowa State though.

While here at Iowa State, the one thing that I can say that I love the most is all the experiences I have had. One such experience that I had here at Iowa State was being a Cyclone Aide. In all honesty, I think that having the Carver Scholarship definitely helped me in attaining this position. Through this position, I gained a HUGE group of friends, helped the biggest incoming freshman class in Iowa State history, and also obtained a set of skills that will help me in my future. It was one of the best experiences of my life, just because it was so fun, while at the same time giving me a whole new set of skills. One such skill that I gained was being able to speak in front of a big group of people. In high school, I would always write speeches at least two or three pages longer than they needed to be just because of the fact that I would get so scared and talk so much faster than I needed to. Though the experiences and training I received during my time as a Cyclone Aide though, I can now confidently get up in front of a group of 400 and even have a smile on my face! Another skill that I got from the position was being able to just small talk. Many people think it really isn't that hard, and it isn't when all you do is have small talk with your friends and acquaintances, but when you are talking to someone and are trying to convince them that Iowa State is the college is for them. At first it was kind of hard and awkward, but once I got some more practice it became second nature. I even accidentally used some of my small talk skills on some of my friends a few times! On top of all the skills, I met a group of people that I will never forget and even consider to be some of my best friends. Some of them helped me through situations that I couldn't imagine going through myself. For example,

during the summer, my girlfriend of two and a half years and I was a wreck. Luckily, I had them by my side and they all huddled together to help me get through it and it was a breeze due to them. Being a Cyclone Aide wasn't the only thing I have experienced though. Another thing that I got to experience was going all the way to New York for the Iowa State bowl game. This is one of those experiences that one never forgets. I went with a group of friends to go and see the Cyclones beat the Scarlett Knights. Even though they unfortunately lost the game, I still had the time of my life there. I did things from getting food off of a street vendor to even watching the ball drop in Times Square. That was something that I would only do once to be honest. I mean even though I got to see all of these stars perform and watch a shiny ball on top of a tall building slowly drop as the countdown began, I still had to stand in a group of people for 12 hours straight. It was a hell that was indescribable. On top of that, I had to deal with a couple that was smoking right in front of me, who then later decided to pee right in front of me. Even though there were some mishaps on this trip, it was something that I absolutely loved. The most important thing though is that none of this would have been possible without Iowa State and our amazing football team! On top of the experiences I have had, the career option have chosen makes me excited for the future!

When I had originally come to Iowa State, I was interested in business and intended to become a marketing student. After talking with a several different people, I had figured out that maybe business wasn't exactly what was for me. I figured that marketing was what I would call a "Soft skill." What that means to me is, being good at a soft skill means that yeah you can be good at it, but it isn't something that is solid, like knowing a formula or understanding how the body works. So I decided to go to Kinesiology under the option of Exercise Science, or basically personal training. A little back story as to why I decided to choose kinesiology was because

during my junior year of high school I had lost 70 pounds. Prior to my weight loss, I was obese, was completely out of shape, and was in a very bad part of my life. I was depressed and felt like I had no friends and this was all due to the fact that I was out of weight. Once I lost all the weight, my life made a complete 180. I became social, got confidence, and even started doing better in school. I know the power of weight loss and what it can do for someone, so I decided that I wanted to dedicate my life to helping people who wanted to lose weight, but just needed a little help and/or push. So began to go through the program and began to think to myself how long I could actually be a personal trainer for. I mean yeah it would be awesome to help someone to lose weight or even help them achieve the level of health they desired. I then realized that it would be awesome to help someone do that, but I don't know how long I could do that. I think it would be so repetitive. On top of that I have heard that it is hard to get good money from it. So I wanted to do something like personal training, but maybe a step up on the ladder and then I thought of doing physical therapy. I thought that through this, I could help someone with a huge variety of things. My mom for example had to go through physical therapy when her leg got pinned to our freezer. She had trouble walking and so through physical therapy she was able to walk she did before the accident. Besides the extra benefit of helping people, there was an added benefit of being able to get paid more money. I know it isn't all about money and in this case it isn't. I want to be able to help people with their physical health, while at the same being paid a nice pay check. The only reason I put such a big emphasis on money is because one day, I want to have a family and be able to support them. I don't want to ever have to tell my child that we can't afford anything or that they can't experience something or have something because of money.

Some of my fears about college did come true though, for example, some of my classes this past year were really hard and I only did well in them due to the fact that the Carver scholarship offered me two free tutors and because of them, I achieved the grade that I wanted. For example, when I was in Physics 115, I knew that I would probably fail the class without the help of someone. With the help of the scholarship, I received the help that I needed to get the grade that I wanted. The scholarship was basically the reason that I even decided to come to Iowa State. My first option was actually the University of Iowa. Now I regret even thinking about it! This scholarship brought me to Iowa State, but in all actuality, Iowa State has given me opportunities of a life time and I wouldn't want to be at any other college experiencing the things I am now.

In conclusion, being a Carver Scholar has opened many doors to me and has allowed me to grow as a person. The courses 105 and 106 taught me to become more socially accepting. It taught me the differences between races and has taught me to become more socially accepting. On top of teaching me to be more socially accepting, it has also allowed me to experience everything I said above and more. This is much more than just a scholarship to me, but rather a key to success. This scholarship has allowed me to grow as a person. It has introduced me to people that I have no idea what I would do without. Next to that, it has also allowed me to experience things that I could only dream of. I mean, I never thought that I would be with my friends without my parents and see one of the most famous traditions in the United States, watching my cyclones doing what they do. On top of that I even got to be a Cyclone Aide, something that has helped me to become a more well-rounded and skilled person. The position has even helped me meet a whole group of people that I can call my best friends. I am so happy

that this scholarship has brought me here to a university that has made my life exponentially better. I hope that I can continue to represent the face of all that is the Carver group.