

SECTION V: FINANCIAL INFORMATION CONTINUED

Provide a narrative (one page) of why you believe you need, or should receive, financial assistance, such as a Texas 4-H and Youth Development Opportunity Scholarship to attend the college/university of your choice. This narrative should include details about family situations such as: care of family members, medical, family financial burdens. HINT: Do not start your narrative with "I deserve"....

"Congratulations, Jessica! You have been selected to attend the Texas Bioscience Institute!" Our school board demonstrated faith in my academic abilities this year by providing me the opportunity to earn dual credit for college and high school at the Texas Bioscience Institute. I am only the second student from Rogers High School to attend the institute. The Texas Bioscience Institute is a middle college opportunity for upperclassmen with an aptitude for science and a desire to begin earning college credits. As a middle college, TBI allows me to take four college classes each semester in the morning, and return to my high school for classes in the afternoon. I provide my own transportation almost 60 miles round trip daily. My afternoon classes include Spanish III, which I committed to take for the Distinguished diploma. In addition to the dual credit courses I took last summer at Temple College, my Texas Bioscience Institute courses will allow me to officially begin my college career with 34 credit hours and as a sophomore. As you can see, I am doing all I can to begin gaining college credit and to make my college education more affordable.

College and a terminal degree have always been a part of my life plan. I have been honored to be recruited to seek a degree at a private university with a reputation for excellence in my chosen field of study. Austin College in Sherman, Texas, offers the best undergraduate education in biology in the state and most of the nation. The school is small, with an enrollment of less than 1,500. Besides a great education, the university is committed to developing leadership and instilling a sense of community service. For example, a major part of the curriculum is "Jan Term" during which students complete a self-designed study locally or abroad, or provide service, instead of breaking for a whole month between semesters. Jan Term offers the chance to concentrate on one subject for a four week period, including the risk of doing something different, but is an additional cost for the student. The college also takes pride in helping every student rise to his or her full potential. Community service is emphasized, with opportunities facilitated by The Service Station, an aspect of student life at Austin College designed to encourage a lifelong commitment to service. Additionally, because the school has no graduate department, all of my classes will be taught by full professors and I will have opportunities for research.

My ultimate goal is to complete my doctorate and become a physician. Austin College is the best choice to segue into graduate school, with its acceptance rate into medical school at almost 100%. Education will be very costly for me and my family. Both of my parents are educators, which is perhaps where I get my love for learning. My mother has been a student most of my life, earning her master's degree at a local private university. My dad began his masters at the same time, but when I came along, he stepped aside so my mom could continue. Mom chose the university she attended, though more costly, because she could attend classes while working full time and beginning our family. I was born during her final year, and she was pregnant with my sister during her internship for her principal certification. She will finally complete her doctorate in Education Leadership this May through Tarleton State University. The road has been long and my mom has paid her way a semester at a time. I do not expect my parents to pay for my full ride, but they are willing to help to the extent possible. I can only expect to pursue my undergraduate education at my chosen college with significant financial assistance and a job of my own. I am currently employed at a store in our local mall, where I can get later hours and weekends so that I can continue my studies, 4-H activities, and academic and athletic pursuits. My younger sister Katelyn is just as involved in 4-H and life as I am, and will be taking dual credit courses next year as a junior. Technically, then, my parents will be supporting two in college already. Katelyn will be graduating and enrolling in college full time in 2010. Her goal is to be a veterinarian, so we will both be in school for the next eight to ten years!

Finally, part of my decision to become a physician has been influenced by my aunt, who is mentally ill. This is very private and difficult to write about. I have learned a lot about gaps in the medical field when it comes to meeting her needs. My mom has said that I want to be a doctor to save the world! My aunt does very well most of the time but is unable to work. My grandparents provide all of her support currently, but I know my parents will be taking on that role in the future. It's a burden financially, but an act of love. I would expect nothing less of my family.

There may be numerous others who need financial assistance more greatly than I. My choice of college is my own, along with the forecasted expenses my parents will face with two children in college and other family obligations. I know I will have to do what I can to contribute financially to my education at Austin College. However, I can assure any scholarship committee that a financial investment in my education would be well placed. I have firm goals and I am committed to success. My lengthy 4-H experience and project focus is a small testament to that. I am excited about stepping out on my own and beginning the journey.

SECTION VI: RECORD OF EXPERIENCE

4-H PROJECT: List up to four (4) of your most significant 4-H projects throughout your entire 4-H career. Describe years involved, knowledge and skills gained, scope and activity related to projects, demonstrations, talks, exhibits, workshops, tours, interviews, etc. Describe why these projects were important and significant and what impact your involvement provided you to have on other people. Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity. Please reference the level of participation/involvement as L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international. **DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED.**

Rabbits (1998 to 2008). Raised New Zealands (white, black), Californians, Mini Rex, Satins, and Florida Whites. Focused on rabbit judging, learning and demonstrating quality points in different breeds. Assisted judges during rabbit competition, completing comment cards, organizing entries. Networked with judges, breeders, feed producers to improve show stock (California, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Illinois, Ohio). Built three barns, improving facilities each time. Led others in project through 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza (S); Rally Days and Leadership Labs (L, C); ag clinics (L, C, S, N); leadership contests, promotional videos and online presentations, workshops (S, N). **Animals raised:** 1,582 New Zealands, 705 Mini Rex, 341 Californians. **Breeding stock (current /total):** 25 (158) New Zealand, 10 (95) Mini Rex, 8 (45) Californian. **Taught/Served:** 5,308. **Hours:** 10,318. **Profit:** \$11,830. **Competitions (Entries):** Houston Livestock Show: 6 years, 96 entries, judging team. Southwestern Exposition: 2 years, 25 entries; San Antonio Exposition: 1 year, 7 entries, National Shows: 9 competitions (Ohio, Illinois, Texas, Kansas, Missouri); State Shows: over 30 competitions, 773 entries; County Youth Fair: 10 years, 121 entries. **Demonstrations:** Rabbit U: nutrition, feed formulation, measuring fines, tattooing, breeding, ask the judge, ask the vet, palpation, commercial barn management (9N); fur differences – satin, rex, wools, standard; density vs. texture (6S, 3N); new breed introduction – Thrianta, Mini Satin (1N); new Mini Rex variety introduction (1N); matching qualities to maximize breeding potential (3 S, 1N); Hormel scoring guide (1 L, 3S); cavies (2S); choosing meat pens (5C, 3D); showmanship (1L, 8C, 3D); breed identification (1C, 4D, 7S); parts of a rabbit (1D, 1S); tanning the pelt (1L, 1D); rabbit recipes (3S); comment card (5S); Rabbit Bowl (4S); diseases (3L, 5S); kindling (2S); barn tours (7L, 3C, 5S, 2N).

Clothing and Textiles (1998 to 2008). Complexity and skill required to construct projects increased from pajamas to formals, including tailoring skills. Learned to sew with lining, wool, fake fur; designed accessories. Explored fibers, fabrics. Assisted with local, other county training - using equipment (machine, buttonholer, serger), fibers, fabrics, pattern alteration, stain removal. Applied consumer decision making skills to purchases, expanding budget with recycled clothing and borrowed accessories. Sewed for others. Responsible for laundry. Learned and applied grooming tips, especially skin and hair care. **Projects created:** 116. **Items purchased:** 1,018. **Taught/Served:** 216. **Competitions:** 4-H Fashion Show: 7 years, 12 entries (C), 11 entries (D). Youth Fair Fashion Revue (C): 8 years, 3 grand champions. Youth Fair Clothing, Textiles (C): 10 years, 41 entries, 2 high-point awards, 1 grand champion. Make It Yourself with Wool (S): 1 year, champion. Central Texas State Fair (S): 4 years, 25 entries. Heart of Texas Fair (S): 2 years, 11 entries. **Workshops:** Modeling, presentation (2C); Fiber & Fabric (3C); Jam Session (1C); Fashion Fantastic (4C); Grooming (1C); Fall Festival (1C); Rally Days (1C); Ambassador Day Camp (1C); grooming and hair care (1D); other (30C). **Local project training –** serger, tailoring, zippers (lapped, separating), lining, pattern making, pattern alteration, remnants, wool, fake fur, buttons, knits, nap, seam finishes, weaving, sewing basics, pressing, jewelry design, make-up, grooming, skin care, commercial clothing sizing, repairs, clothing alteration, comparison shopping, specialty clothing (59L). **Tours:** Specialty needlework store (1S); leatherwork factory (1S); sewing machine, serger sales (1C); fabric store (3C); jewelry making (1S); department store (2C); dry cleaners (1C).

Foods and Nutrition (1998 to 2008). Responsible for majority of own meals – planning, purchasing, preparation, clean-up. Junior leader local, county level (Manners Matter, Fight Bac!, Food Safety, Dietary Guidelines, Food Show Interview, Sports Nutrition, Food Preservation). Experienced food from different cultures (Mexico, Canada, Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Alaska, Korea) while traveling, through project group. Practiced garnishing, presentation techniques, specialty cooking, table setting. Became expert at canned, dehydrated food preservation, growing most of foods in garden. Provide food gift items, canned items for elderly, homebound. Prepare meals, provide food products at Martha's Kitchen and church pantry. Taught others to prepare, freeze casseroles. **Meals prepared:** 1,279. **Dishes prepared/foods preserved:** 4,731. **Taught/Served:** 1,422. **Competitions (Entries):** 4-H Food Show: 8 years (8C, 6D). Youth Fair (C): 10 years, 104 entries, high-point award. Heart of Texas Fair (S): 2 years, 13 entries. Central Texas State Fair (S): 4 years, 31 entries. **Trainings/Workshops:** Ag Awareness Day (1C), Canning Workshop (1C), Garden Tour (1C), Farmer's Market (1C), Restaurant workshop and tour – preparation, safety, serving, catering (1L), Farm Safety Day (1D), Library Days (1C), Fall Festival (1C), Dietary Guidelines (1C, 1D), Food Pyramid (1C, 1D), food presentation – ice sculpture, chocolate, gourmet ingredients, food garnish (8I), master chef cuisine (3I), specialty breads (1I), food storage (1C), Central Market Tour (1S), beef nutrition (1S), pork (1L, 1D), gourmet ingredients (1I). **Local project training –** kitchen safety, bacteria, spoilage, comparison shopping, labels, meal planning, recipe substitutions, cake decorating, reducing fat, gingerbread houses, sports nutrition, Food Guide Pyramid, safe food handling, microwave, mock food show, careers, pressure canning, candy making, cooking for a crowd, table setting, meat safety, dairy judging, fish production, individual project study (36L). **County Training –** nutrients, ethnic foods, safety, bacteria, casseroles, meal planning, specialty food preparation, napkin folding, table setting, serving sizes, healthy snacks (11C).

Public Speaking (1998 to 2008). Developed, recorded 12-minute segment for television program (L); presented project on 1-hour morning show in Houston (2S); created project video (1N). Studied importance of public speaking skills for local, state, and national government. Created PSAs; presented clinics, fairs, booths, 4-H week. Emcee for county food show, presenter at banquet (3 years, C). Presented for Library Days (C), Farm Animal Days (C), Ag Awareness (C), Rally Days (C); local, state, and national workshops. Completed Toastmasters Youth Leadership training (C). **Presentations/Reports:** 421. **Taught:** 6,133. **Workshops:** Method demonstration (1C); television station recording studio tour (1C); county courthouse, museum workshop and tour (1C); state capitol legislator interview, tour (1S). **Local project –** ice breakers, illustrated talk, primary resources, parliamentary procedure, parts of a speech, etiquette (8L). **Competitions:** 4-H Roundup: 6 years (6C, 6D). Rabbit Extravaganza Method Demonstration (S): 3 years.

SECTION VI: RECORD OF EXPERIENCE

4-H LEADERSHIP ROLES: List up to twenty-five (25) major 4-H leadership roles throughout your 4-H career. Include volunteer, promotion, and elected/appointed leadership. List roles and responsibilities, years, levels of involvement as L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international. Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity. DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED. DO NOT ALLOW INFORMATION TO EXTEND TO THE NEXT PAGE.

YEAR	LEADERSHIP ROLE	LEVEL	ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES, DUTIES, AND/OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (BRIEF STATEMENTS)
2006-2008	Promotional	N	Junior Ambassador, Purina. Presented training for 4-Hers at Rabbit U in Missouri (2006; 380 participants). Promote rabbit nutrition and proper feeding.
2006	Promotional	N	Promotional Television Recording. Recorded promotional presentation supporting 4-H and rabbit project, proper nutrition. Aired on RFD TV.
2006	Promotional	C	Fall Festival Committee. Created display about rabbit project for youth fair participants (meat pens, showmanship, breed identification, nutrition) (20 participants).
2005 2004	Promotional	C	4-H Ambassador. Provided leadership and service for county events, including summer day camp (50 participants), 4-H Week activities, meeting with government officials, officer training, Rally Days (approximately 300 participants).
2005	Promotional	C	Etiquette Workshop, Temple Public Library. Taught workshop on table manners at community event (90 participants).
2004	Promotional	C	Farm Animal Days Workshop. Taught city residents about 4-H and rabbit project (estimated 250 participants).
2003 2002	Promotional	S L	4-H Week Promotion. Interviewed for Country World rural newspaper promoting 4-H. Taught 128 elementary students about 4-H, using rabbit project.
2001 2000	Promotional	C	Clover Kids Fair Committee. Planned events for Clover Kids Fair, held at retirement center. Clover members showed off projects in a non-competitive event.
2002-2008	Volunteer	L, C, S, N	Junior Project Leader – Rabbits. Provided clinics (showmanship, meat pens, breed ID), barn tours. Show assistant – called up entries, wrote commentary, organized comment cards (over 50 shows). Judged junior showmanship at Texas Rabbit Breeders Shows (2 years). Provided exhibits, displays at county validation, show (4 years), All-Species Ag Clinics, Ag Awareness Day. Published articles about New Zealands, showmanship in state newsletters, national guidebook.
2002-2008	Volunteer	L, C D	Junior Project Leader – Clothing & Textiles. Provided local, county training. Secured location for county show. Provided presentations, displays; organized workshops. Assisted neighboring county (3 members, 2 years). Member of district 4-H Fashion Show Committee, 2001.
2002-2007	Volunteer	L, C	Junior Project Leader – Foods & Nutrition. Provided local, county project training (casseroles, Dietary Guidelines, interview tips; sanitation, bacteria, food safety, more). Work Country Store.
2006	Volunteer	C	Record Book Training. Led workshops for three clubs on record keeping (95 participants).
2006	Volunteer	N	Youth Activities Chair for National Show. Planned activities for participants, including scavenger hunt, break room. Solicited prizes, obtained workers, provided snacks. 654 registered participants.
2005	Volunteer	N	Educational Contests Chair for Mini Rex National Show. Organized judging contests, showmanship; created junior, prejunior tests; obtained judges; solicited prizes; secured volunteers.
2000-2004	Volunteer	L	Oenaville Carnival Committee. Solicited pies for fundraising contest supporting local club. Planned games and activities, obtained prizes.
2002-2007	Appointed	S	4-H Rabbit Extravaganza Committee. Hands-on judging chair 4 years (provide animals, workers, prejudge), approximately 180 participants. Art contest chair, 1 year. Recruited rabbits for Breed ID. Judged junior showmanship, 1 year (20 participants).
2006 2004	Elected / Appointed	S, N	Team Member, Delegate. State rabbit judging team and breed identification member. Represented Texas at national shows. Delegate to national youth meetings.
2001-2006	Appointed	C	Task Force Member, Ag and Family Consumer Science. Provided feedback for county leaders regarding events and activities, including clinics and youth fair.
2005	Elected	C	County Council Secretary. Responsible for correspondence, notes, minutes. Communicated council information to local clubs. Provided training for local officers.
2004	Elected	L	President, Oenaville 4-H Club. Presided over meetings, recruited speakers, participated at council.
2001-2004	Appointed	D	Delegate, District 4-H Leadership Lab. Represented county at district meeting (3 years).
2003	Elected	C	President, Toastmaster Youth Leadership. Presided, planned agendas.
2003	Elected	L	Vice President, Oenaville 4-H Club. Recruited speakers, organized community service.
2002 2001 2000	Elected	L	Historian, Oenaville 4-H Club. Recorded club history with pictures and descriptions. Council Delegate, Oenaville 4-H Club. Attended county council meetings. Communicated county activities to local club and club activities to council.

SECTION VI: RECORD OF EXPERIENCE

4-H CITIZENSHIP AND 4-H COMMUNITY SERVICE: List up to fifteen (15) of your citizenship and community service activities. List activity, year, and your role in the activity (use Y=performed yourself, M=member of a group, P=provided primary leadership to the group). Describe why your citizenship and community service was important in these activities and what impact your involvement provided you to have on other people. **Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity. DO NOT ALLOW INFORMATION CHARTS TO EXTEND TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

YEAR	ACTIVITY	ROLE IN ACTIVITY	WHY IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ME AND/OR IMPACT OF INVOLVEMENT
1998-2008	Scholarship and Youth Booster fundraisers	Y	Solicit, donate items to raise money for scholarships for local youth booster participants and rabbit project members. 94 donations, 112 hours.
2000-2008	Ronald McDonald House	P	Supported home that provides temporary shelter for families with children receiving services at local hospital. Lead projects annually: collected can tabs for recycling, created and donated blankets and crafts for children; prepared, froze casseroles for family meals; collected toiletries and school supplies. 172+ hours, 8 casseroles, \$400 in recycled tabs, numerous items donated.
2000-2008	Annual local and county projects	M P	Created kits for hospice; collected toiletries, canned goods, socks, school supplies, pennies for annual local and county projects. Provided primary leadership as club president, vice-president (2 years).
2002-2008	Theo Cemetery Reclamation	M	Clear shrubbery, chopped overgrown trees to reclaim neglected community cemetery, grave markers from 1800s. Assisted with GPS location. 64 hours.
2003-2008	Operation Christmas Drop	P	Led local, county participation in collected items for boxes for needy children across the world at Christmas (over 100 boxes).
2003-2008	Angel Tree	M	Collected gifts, donations for foster children and other local children in need at Christmas. Supported 10 children through 4-H.
2003-2008	Martha's Kitchen	M	Facility supports local families in crisis with meals, clothing, shelter. As a volunteer, I sorted donations, collected canned goods, solicited clothing, delivered unclaimed fair baked entries. 28 hours.
2005-2007	Churches Touching Lives for Christ (CTLIC)	M	Organization assists families in crisis with food, clothing, necessities. As a volunteer I collect and sort donations, bag canned goods. 10 hours.
2000-2003	Holiday Baking Workshops	P	Led half and full-day workshops during holiday break for young 4-H members from two clubs on decorating cookies, gingerbread houses. Made cookie donations to local charities. 96 hours, 50+ participants.
2000-2002	Farm Safety Days	M	Served lemonade to school children participating in Farm Safety Days. Over 3,000 served, 18 hours, and sticky.
1998-2002	Adopt-A-Highway	M	Adopted highway in Oenaville community for trash pick-up. 24 hours.
1999-2001 2007	Trick or Treat for Canned Goods	P M	Initiated canned food drive in local club. Lots of fun for young members. Collected 644 canned goods. Revitalized activity in 2007.
1999-2003	Gifts for 4-H Volunteers	P M	Led group in making gifts for judges and volunteers of 4-H activities (1 year), member of group (3 years). Made layered soup mixes, aprons, ornaments.
1999-2007	County Awards Banquet	M	Served cake, decorated, cleaned up annually. 24 hours.

4-H HONORS: List up to four (4) of your most important honors received through 4-H. List the honor, year received, level of award (e.g. L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international), and why you consider the honors listed to be the most important (i.e. how did they contribute to and provide significance toward your personal development?). **Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity.**

YEAR	AWARD	LEVEL OF AWARD	WHY IS THIS AWARD IMPORTANT TO YOU?
2006	Gold Star Award (1 of 3)	County	The Gold Star is the ultimate recognition in 4-H for the many years of involvement, determined by leaders that assisted me in meeting goals.
2005	1 st Place State 4-H Record Book - Rabbit	State	My record book won my first year as a senior. Rabbits have been my passion all of my life. I was excited that as I transitioned from competition to a leadership role that my efforts were recognized.
2007 2006 2005	Grand Champion Rabbit Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (avg. 1,200 entries)	National	For the past three years, my rabbit has won the top prize in Houston – an unprecedented feat. The award has been earned with different breeds, while I have also won high point judging individual or judging team.
1999-2008	Showmanship	County	I have been the showmanship champion or reserve champion 8 of 10 years. Showmanship is a demonstration of my ability to select the best qualities in a rabbit, so earning the award is a testament to the knowledge I have gained.

SECTION VI: RECORD OF EXPERIENCE

OUTSIDE OF 4-H LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES, HONORS, WORK EXPERIENCE, VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE: Describe how you spent time outside of your 4-H activities, why you devoted time to a particular activity, the impact the activity had on your personal development, and how it benefitted other people. List leadership roles outside of 4-H (include school, church, other youth groups, etc). **DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED. DO NOT ALLOW INFORMATION TO EXTEND ONTO THE NEXT PAGE.**

Academics/Education: National Merit Commended Scholar (2008). Texas Bioscience Institute attendee; dual credit in biology, chemistry, composition, calculus, statistics (2007, 2008). Young Poets of America nominee (2007). Aquatic science marine biology experience, University of Texas Marine Biology Research Center, Port Aransas (2007); studied marine life, conducted research. SCUBA certification (2007). Rogers Homecoming Committee (2007, 2005); bi-annual homecoming parade volunteer, served meals, sold tickets, took photographs, created flyers; will be a 5th generation Rogers High School graduate. Who's Who Among American High School Students (2005, 2006). Academic Awards in English, chemistry, world history (2006); reading, language arts, keyboarding (2004); reading, band, language arts (2003); reading, band, social studies, language arts, science (2002). Citizenship Award (voted on by students) (2002, 2003, 2004). Duke Talent Search qualifier; state recognition for ACT English and Language Arts score (2003). Service Learning Team (1999, 2000); organized community public library. Science Fair (1999); 1st place. Recycling Fair (1998); 1st place with "Garbage Pizza"; initiated fair in new school modeled after science fair. All A Academic Honor Roll (all years).

UIL Participant: Literary criticism team (2006, 2007, 2008); regional qualifier. Science team (2008). Current events team (2006, 2007); 3rd district. Impromptu speaking (2003, 2004, 2005); 1st, 3rd, 5th district. Maps, charts, and graphs (2001, 2002, 2003); 2nd, 1st, 3rd district. Dictionary skills (2002); 3rd district. Ready writing (2000, 2001, 2002); 3rd district. Music theory (2001); 1st division.

Band: State qualifying ensemble, 1st division regional, tenor sax (2006). Band officer and sweetheart (2005, 2006). 1st division marching band, tenor sax (2005). All Texas Smalls Schools Band finalist, 2nd chair symphonic band, bassoon (2004). Solo and ensemble competition, 3 1st division ratings, oboe, bassoon (2003). Solo competition 1st division, oboe (2002).

Theater: Fall production, assistant (2007); *The Wizard of Oz* (not enrolled in theater class because of TBI schedule; worked on props, sewed costumes, rallied the Munchkins). One Act Play regional qualifier (2007); *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* (townsperson; sewed and repaired costumes, worked on props). Fall production, lead role (2006); *Sweet Nothing in My Ear* (deaf school teacher and mother; sewed and repaired costumes). Temple Civic Theater Drama Camp (2000).

Athletics: Varsity powerlifting team (2008); projected regional qualifier. Varsity golf team (2006, 2007, 2008); 3rd district team each year. Varsity cross country (2005, 2006, 2007); regional qualifier. Middle school cross country (2003, 2004); district champions. Varsity track, 1-mile, 2-mile (2005, 2006, 2007). Junior varsity basketball (2005, 2006). **Camps/clinics:** Local Little Dribblers summer camps (assistant 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005; participant 1999-2005); awards for one-on-one, two-on-two, shoot-out, hot shot, knock-out, free throws, superstar. Baylor Basketball summer clinic (2003, 2004); Baylor Bear ball girl (2004). Texas A&M Basketball summer clinic (2003). Troy Schools Fit and Fun Run (1998, 1999, 2000); sponsorships for 2-mile run to raise money for playground equipment. Cameron Park Zoo Great Zoo Stampede 5K (2004); ran to raise money for zoo. Summer track participant (2003).

School Organizations: Student Council (2006-2008): sponsor school events, raise money for scholarships, support Project Celebration, community service. FFA member: Dairy judging team (3rd area 2006, state qualifier 2005). Chapter conducting team (3rd area senior team vice president 2006; area qualifier junior team vice president 2005). Star Greenhand (2005). Individual creed speaking (2nd area). State convention delegate (2005). Participant in FFA service and leadership projects. Students Against Drunk Driving: Red Ribbon Week committee (2001-2004); Jump Against Drugs (2002); hosted Kansas Kids in home, at school for presentation (800 participants total, 2001); worked booths at carnival (2001-2003). Teens Against Tobacco Use training participant (2000, 2001). Jump Rope for Heart participant (1998-2001).

Church/Community: Wee Worship volunteer (2006-2008); provided child care for infants and two-year-olds during service. Youth group mission team (2004-2008); participant and leader for community service projects. Mother-daughter tea, back-to-school events, baked potato fundraiser to support CTLC (2003, 2004, 2005); prepare food, proper table setting in formal environment with mother's china (for tea), serve, clean up. Nature Center fundraiser, volunteer (2003); provided animal projects, donated auction items, worked booths to raise funds for day care. Vacation Bible School assistant, volunteer (1999-2005); assisted in classroom, helped with physical activities and art projects, made and served snacks for participants and teachers, donated materials.

Other activities: Employee, Great American Cookie Company, Temple Mall (up to 20 hours/week; 2007, 2008). East Bell Youth Boosters, Troy Area Youth Boosters: solicit members and donations to support youth fair participants from 4-H, FFA, FCCLA (1998-2008). Other projects: Swine (raised 10 pigs total 2005, 2006, 2008; earned "Martha Stewart" clean pen award in 2005, built own facility in 2006; hours - 1,239; profit \$235); Beef heifer (raised heifer for show at County, Houston Livestock Show, 2007). Photography (1998-2008; assisted with 11 local and county photography workshops, Take Your Camera to School, Texas Wildflower Center, displays at mall and local stores). Shooting sports (1998-2008). Participant: Bob Bullock Museum (2003, 2005); Washington DC Citizenship (2004); USS Lexington Citizenship (2003); Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo (2002); Dr. Pepper Museum (2002); 4-H Bug Camp (2001); 4-H Space Camp, Kennedy Space Center (2000); 4-H Camp in Brownwood (1998-2001).

SECTION VII: PERSONAL NARRATIVE

Write or type a personal narrative about yourself, highlighting any important facts and information you believe the selection committee should know when considering your application. This would include such things as your history in 4-H, any personal obstacles you have overcome, the greatest thing you will take from 4-H, and how 4-H will help you in the future. Do not repeat any information already contained in the application. **DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED. DO NOT ALLOW INFORMATION TO EXTEND ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

Once upon a time there was a little bird who couldn't fly. "Mamma, why can't I fly like the other birds?" she asked one day. Her mother replied, "I can't fly either. Neither can all of the family and friends who love you. There's much more to being a bird than flying." One day a magic snake offered the little bird a wish. The little bird wished to soar in the sky. "Be careful what you ask for," said the snake. "You wouldn't be like your family on the ground. You must choose where you belong... What is your wish?"

These were the opening lines for my character, a deaf mother and school teacher, in our theater production, *Sweet Nothing in My Ear*. This role had a massive impact on me personally. I never actually spoke one word in the play but had to learn to sign the entire production. The role touched me deeply while I interacted with others who did not fully comprehend that my "disability" was embraced by my character as a blessing. The play revolves around the agonizing decision of a deaf mother, a hearing father, and a child who is a candidate for a cochlear implant. The story ends unresolved, which is a metaphor for my own life at this juncture.

4-H has been the backbone of my childhood, and has made me fearless. I have learned to analyze my own "disabilities" and to count my blessings. I don't remember a time in my life when there wasn't 4-H. I joined when I started kindergarten and I haven't looked back. My first 4-H memory is as a Clover Kid making popsicle stick reindeer in the high school ag shop – I still have a scar from sticking my fingers together with the hot glue. I was still wearing the band aid when we had the county fair. My rabbits won reserve grand, even though they were hungry and fidgety. One even bit me, but I have endured! I fell in love with the bunny project, and snagged several more. Over the many years of my 4-H experience I have tried my hand at public speaking, photography, foods and nutrition, beef, swine, consumer decision making, shooting sports, and clothing and textiles. Each of these projects has brought me some measure of success, but more importantly, they have all taught me valuable life lessons.

Ultimately, 4-H is all about what you put in it. Just like any chemical equation, the product cannot be greater than the reactants. The time and hard work I put into 4-H brings about growth and personal development, and increases my knowledge and skills. How many high schoolers besides 4-H members know how to show a heifer or a pig, can create a logical method demonstration, and can take lead of a meeting with proper parliamentary procedure? Canning homemade picante, jellies, and pickles has taught me about the environment, and my leadership projects have given me an edge in speaking to others or in just trying to complete group projects in Spanish class. I have learned the value of time management, responsibility, and fair play.

4-H will provide amusing and enjoyable memories for years to come. For example, I baked Monster Muffins for my first food show. I made the judge take one, covered it with peanut butter and candy corn, and licked my fingers. The peanut butter was good! My first illustrated talk used the acronym of WHALE to teach others about the environment. I don't even remember what WHALE stood for, but the presentation was over 12 minutes long. Our club members were very respectful and patient listening to me. Another memory is of an event at Killeen Farm Animals Day, where over 300 very eager city kids wanted no part of hearing about how to choose a meat pen – they just wanted to hold the rabbits! Or the time I dressed up in a Renaissance costume I had made, put a rabbit in a stew pot with some carrots and a wooden spoon, and won the "Best Dressed Bunny" contest at the State 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza with a "naked" bunny. These events bring a smile to my face, but more than that, they underscore the value of being a part of something with a focus on leadership, responsibility, and service. Who I am is because of 4-H.

I have been fortunate to have notable success with my 4-H projects. Please don't assume, though, that all of this has come easily. There have been obstacles to overcome in just staying in 4-H sometimes. We have moved twice since those popsicle stick reindeer. I have been enrolled in three different schools in two different counties. Each time, my mother made sure we found the local 4-H club and became involved. After the first move, 4-H found us! The Oenaville 4-H club manager was one of our neighbors, and welcomed us warmly with homemade goodies and an invitation to the next meeting. She didn't even know before meeting us that we were 4-Hers! My involvement in 4-H eased the transition each time, but moving is never easy. My father's job as a teacher/coach recently relocated us to our current school. At the time, I was a freshman in high school, a very difficult grade to change schools. My mom had just gone back to college to complete her doctorate. School kept her busy, and work occupied my dad. Adjusting to so many changes was extremely difficult, and the comforting constant of 4-H and my projects made it bearable and helped me make friends.

Another obstacle to 4-H success for all active members in my county has unfortunately been 4-H agent turnover. We moved to Bell County just before a tragic accident severely injured the state-recognized 4-H agent in this county, and have had a number of different agents during my 4-H experience. Each one has had unique talents to offer, but none have been here long enough to have the impact that one would hope. I felt like I started over each time, with different plans and new expectations. I credit outstanding local leaders, like my former neighbor and my mom, and the other extension agents, with keeping 4-H as a positive local influence in the lives of many youth in our county.

Perhaps the most significant element of my 4-H experience has been the transition from competitor to leader and supporter. I enjoy judging rabbits at the show as much as entering them. And nothing is more rewarding than seeing the look on a young child's face when she enters my barn for the first time to see what it looks like to have a BIG rabbit project. I love helping new members get their projects started, find stock, and grow healthy animals. I also enjoy helping members with their clothing projects and method demonstrations. I have learned so much more by teaching and helping others than by just competing. Giving back is very important. For example, my grandmother has been the chairperson for our fair's country store since before I was born. My mother should be assuming the role shortly. Someday, that may be my job!

SECTION VIII: CAREER NARRATIVE

Describe how you have prepared yourself to have an awareness of and an understanding about career(s) applicable to the degree or technical certificate you wish to pursue. Type of information you may provide include:

- Visits to college/universities and conversations with personnel at those institutions.
- Investigations of job/career opportunities and availability
- Persons/experiences that have influenced you to pursue the degree/certification you have indicated.
- How you decided to pursue a technical certification versus baccalaureate or vice-versa.

DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED. DO NOT ALLOW INFORMATION TO EXTEND ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Do you remember taking those career aptitude surveys? The ones that give you a pie chart and tell you that you would be a good mechanic, or maybe a truck driver or even a rabbi? Analyzing my career aptitude summary has been a difficult chore. For most people the pie is usually shaded on one section, but mine was always split. I have been fortunate to be a quick learner with lots of interests, but that makes it hard to decide what to do with the rest of my life! I always knew I wanted to work in a field that will benefit others, with a high measure of responsibility and challenge. I am not afraid to make tough decisions nor do I shy away from controversy. So what will I choose? I have determined that science and biology are my first love (I get that from my dad), and that I can use the knowledge I will gain there to help others (I get that from my mom).

College has always been an expectation in my life plan, including the completion of my doctorate. I enjoy learning and discovering new things, and getting my hands dirty. My ultimate career goal is to be a physician, with an emphasis on research. If not a physician, then research in the area of marine biology is also an option. My career choice has been immensely influenced by my dad, who is a high school biology teacher. His interest and support have inspired me since I was small. Every family vacation or outing included time to stop and pick wildflowers or to evaluate some habitat or remains we may have found. We have quite a collection of tortoise shells, bones, seeds, and small animal skulls. Last year I took an aquatic science course, which included an amazing adventure with the University of Texas Marine Science Center in Port Aransas. We spent a number of days with the university professors, conducting research, learning about habitat, and studying ecosystems. Through the course, I obtained my SCUBA certification, which solidified my career choice in the area of biology. These experiences prompted me to apply to attend the Texas Bioscience Institute and begin earning college credit with a science emphasis. The Texas Bioscience Institute is a state-of-the-art laboratory, supported by the Scott and White Medical System, where we are surrounded by researchers trying to cure cancer and conducting other fascinating studies. Attending TBI has been the most powerful impact on my life to date. While other seniors are still on campus, socializing as much as studying, my schedule has proven to be especially grueling. I have had to truly transition into the role of college freshman. However, the coursework is just the first step on a long path to my career goal, and I'm happy to get a head start.

Another great influence leading me to a career in a life science or medical occupation is my involvement with the Ronald McDonald House. This is an amazing organization that provides shelter for families in need when their children are critically ill. The Scott and White Medical System is the premier hospital and medical school in the southwest. Children who receive services there are often terminally ill. Additionally, I have been influenced by my uncle, who is a pediatrician with Scott and White in College Station. The work he does is inspiring, yet he is so quiet and humble about it. My aunt's medical situation is also a factor in my decision to become a doctor. Initially, I thought my focus would be psychology. But my aptitude for biology overrides my specific interest in relationships and the brain! My rabbit project also has influenced my career path. Of course I expect to continue to raise rabbits, and I enjoy studying the genetics of color and the impact of nutrition on rabbit quality. Who would have ever imagined that rabbits would lead to medical school!

A number of events will influence my ultimate career path. While marine biology would be an exciting career, job opportunities are not very prevalent, especially in Central Texas! I recognize that my goal of being a physician is more practical, despite the high educational expectations. Additionally, my research has determined that career opportunities in the medical profession have been on the rise and will continue to be in demand. In my career decision preparation, I have completed aptitude assessments, and discussed the options with experts, including a member of the Texas A & M College of Medicine admissions committee who is also a pediatrician at Scott and White. One thing I have learned from 4-H is to go to the primary resource!

In my search for a college home – after all, I'll be there for the next four years – I have visited the campuses of Texas A & M, Rice, Baylor, and Austin College. As a National Merit Commended Scholar, I was honored to be somewhat "recruited" by Duke, USC, Tulane, and the University of Chicago, among others. There were so many options! Ultimately, after a series of tours, interviews, and orientations, it was obvious that the college that best fit my personal needs is Austin College in Sherman, Texas. I interviewed and toured the campus the same weekend as our most recent State 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza. It was homecoming weekend for the Roos, and the campus was alive. But we couldn't stay – I was meeting a Houston rabbit breeder in Hillsboro to get rabbits for the hands-on judging contest! Austin College is a small private school that has a well-reputed biology program and a greater-than-98% acceptance rate into graduate school. Another advantage for this choice is that Austin College does not provide any graduate program, which means that undergraduates are heavily involved in the research process. I am ready to get my hands dirty!