

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"....*

A number of years ago a city girl came to teach in Belton. She met a country boy who was already teaching there. She didn't know anything about cooking, canning, or 4-H. He had been a 4-H member since he was 8 and his mom had been a 4-H parent volunteer. Well, they fell in love and married. She sure learned a lot from that country boy. Good thing for me since they were my parents! My mom has learned how to cook, sew, can, and process chickens and hogs! Not bad for a city girl! She and my dad are still in the education business and they have been so for over thirty years. They have shown me how to work hard, plan, prepare, and strive for excellence in all my endeavors. Of course, since they are career educators they have not made the huge salaries some of their former students make. Finances such as theirs look good on paper but really we are the squeezed out middle class. Not enough to write a check for all of my tuition and fees, yet too much to qualify for some kinds of aid. My parents have had students in many lucrative career fields. Some of their students are doctors, financial advisors, or work for aerodynamics companies. Yet, without career educators like my parents, where would these people be? We always had a comfortable, middle class, life. Through careful planning and staying within the family budget, we always had a home, money for 4-H projects, 4-H camp, and other expenses. We never really lacked for anything in so many ways. We didn't have cable or satellite TV or \$300. cell phones but we always had enough. Now, my parents are nearing retirement and will need their savings to maintain their comfortable but never ostentatious lifestyle. I have worked almost all of my life at fund-raisers for the community or church and for the last four years have had a part-time job in the kitchen at the local SPJST lodge making hamburgers every Thursday night. I know the value of a dollar. I have worked hard in school, 4-H projects, in church and community service activities. I know what it means to persevere and bring a return on an investment.

My goal has been to attend Texas A & M University and to become a teacher like my parents. I plan to major in math since I have a gift for it and it is a critical need subject in education these days. School systems are begging for teachers who are qualified in math and science. I know that college expenses are enormous and they have grown exponentially every year for decades. One goal I have set is to be Valedictorian of my class. I am grateful to have succeeded. The other goal I have had since 3rd grade is to go to Texas A & M University. With help from this scholarship, I will be able to meet that part of my goal. Living expenses are very high at the university or any university for that matter. Even though my valedictorian scholarship will cover tuition costs for only two semesters, I will still need funds for books, living, fees, and other incidental college costs as well as funding for the rest of my college years.

As one can tell from my transcript for Holland High and Temple College, I have learned how to study. Scholarship money will not be wasted on me! Even though some money has been set aside for college expenses, such as small amounts earned from auctioned items at the Bell County Youth Fair, my family and I have not been able to set aside so much money that either I or my parents could write checks for the entire amount of college expenses. I have a brother at home who will be attending college in two years. My parents then will have two children in college at the same time; they have home maintenance expenses, cost of living expenses, car insurance, gas, health insurance, medical bills, and farm expenses to cover. My grandparents will need more and more care within the next few years.

A scholarship such as this will also help to alleviate expenses my family and I may incur as we strive to care for our older family members. My parents' home has not had major renovations for over 20 years; the house is starting to show signs of deterioration; their savings will need to go to home and health maintenance, not mine and my brother's college expenses. Since the legislature has allowed colleges and universities to raise tuition and fees, middle class students, such as I, will have a tremendous financial burden to pay for our higher education. Loans are available, but I don't want to start my career already in debt.

Our nation needs an educated workforce and I plan to build up the community where I will live, wherever that may be. Through earning a college degree with help from this scholarship program, I will be able to achieve this goal. With this scholarship funding I will be able to continue my education and so someday help others achieve their goals and serve my community and my world. Our society needs an educated middle class. That dream is slipping away for so many students. I know how to work hard and I fully expect to fulfill my obligations to the university and to the scholarship. I plan to bring a solid return for the faith invested in me.

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.**

POULTRY 04-06; 07-09: Raised 310 chickens; 100 birds in 08-09 (L)Spent over \$100. every two weeks for food and/or shavings,\$50.00 for electricity, heat lamps. (C) Cared for birds at 3650hrs; taught 12 people proper show methods (C) Helped 12 people show their birds and pick birds to show (C);Interviewed area experts on proper care. (L, C); Donated 75 processed birds to others at .82 per pound. (C)Attended three workshops for 4 hrs each(C, S); Reseached information from CEO (C,S) Learned skills in care, feeding and upkeep of show poultry.(L); Learned how to process birds with family (L) Learned how to buy feed, where to put the food and water for birds to grow; learned safety procedures before and during production (L)Learned safety procedures, how to process, clean, and freeze birds (L) Participated in 8 county shows (C);Placed high enough to sell in 6 attempts. (C)Plan to enter a major show this year: 09 (S)

FOOD AND NUTRITION 04-09: Prepared over 100 meals and 75 dishes.(L)Entered the Bell County Youth Fair 8 times (C)Won Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion 3/4 years in high school and 5/6 times during my years as a Junior or Intermediate contestant. (C) Gave 2 presentation to club with about 30 members in attendance. (C,L) Competed in 16 food contests (L,C,S) Shopped 100 times to buy groceries and used consumer decision making skills to make the best buys for my family. (L) Learned best practices in food preservation and baking from area experts(L.) Demonstrated expertise in making trays and in catering for a state-wide event held in my hometown(L,S.) Learned how to perfect my divinity recipe; perfected recipes in baking, candy making & cookies learned food safety, eating for health, improved timing and baking procedures, and learned best practices for food preservation(N.) Interviewed area experts 30times (L).Read and learned from the national food pyramid (N) Used information to help family and club members make informed food choices(L). Donated over 102 food items (C). Prepared over 450 meals; canned or froze 550 food items (L).

CLOTHING AND TEXTILES 04-09 Logged over 28 tours of local fabric stores (L,C) Spoken with 10 fabric salespeople. (L,C). Competed in the Bell County Fashion Revue (C) 7years and placed highly. Competed in 4-H Fashion shows for 5 years in both county and district shows placing in the top three. (C, D). 07-08 Modeled in the EE fashion show in the formal I made(C). Competed in state-wide sewing events 7 years ;placed 1st-3rd every year(S).Learned improved sewing techniques, lining, zipper placement, improved fitting skills, and quilt techniques especially paper piecing.(L) Altered 3 garments for students and a teacher (L). Attended 4 workshops (C). Helped 5 others learn to sew(C) Used sewing skills to make better consumer decision making choices when purchasing garments(C) Spent 1050 hrs.; 900 experiences;106 items made;\$900. spent for thread, fabric, patterns, notions(L). 60 items donated (C). 22 people taught sewing techniques (L).

PUBLIC SPEAKING: 06-09: Participated in Share the Fun 5 times placed Second at State Round-Up(C,D,S) Participated in Round-Up (C,D,S);participated in Consumer Decission Making (C);Learned how to present a speech or comedic routine to 4-H specifications (C,D,S); Learned consumer decision-making skills (C); Learned how to perform and maintain composure in a variety of venues (C,D,S)

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 OF INVOLVEMENT	ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES, DUTIES, AND/OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (BRIEF STATEMENTS)
08-09	Demonstration	L	Gave demonstrations and taught 5 others how to sew;altered clothes for 3 students and 1 teacher at school. Volunteer
06-08	Demonstration	L	Gave advice on Record book keeping to another 4-H member and advice on Auction procedures to 3 other Bell County Winners 2hrs. Volunteer
07-08	Demonstration	L	Gave explanation of proper rabbit care and feeding to parent volunteer.3hrs Volunteer
06-07	Demonstration	L	Gave demonstration to 40 club members in attendance about food contest entries;how to prepare for the fair. Volunteer
06-07	Demonstration	L	Gave presentation to 30 club members in attendance about healthy food choices for weight maintenance or weight loss. Volunteer
06-08	Demonstration	C	Showed other members and 3agents willingness to help after county banquets by cleaning up and putting away effects after banquets 1hr each time. Volunteer
06-08	Demonstration	L	Demonstrated proper selection of birds for show to 2 other members. Volunteer
06-07	Promotion	C	Told prospective member at County Share the Fun contest about advantages to being in 4-H. Volunteer
06-07	Leadership	C	Gave the blessing at the County Awards Banquet. Elected/appointed
02-08	Leadership	L	Led club motto; pledge/led club meeting in President's absence. Elected/appointed
03-09	Promotion	L/C	Sold 10 pizzas for club fund-raiser and 15 raffle tickets for County fund-raiser earned over \$100. Volunteer
02-08	Donation	L	Donated 100 pieces of homemade divinity or 2 pies or 3 layer cakes for Holland Youth Booster's silent auction.Volunteer
03-04	Promotion	C	Attended meeting for Blackland Coalition meeting to better understand the effects of the TTC 2hrs. Volunteer
04-05	Promotion	C	Member of Teen Ambassadors; attended TA meetings and activities E/A
01-08	Leadership	L/C/D	Served as club reporter, 2 nd Vice President and other offices, served on Task Force Committee; County Council; voted for Council officers, Dist. 8 Leadership Extravaganza;Attended Program Development meeting; County Leadership Extravaganza; Acquired a speaker for 4-H meeting E/A
03-07	Promotion	C	Convinced 6 others to participate in County Round-Up Volunteer
01-05	Promotion	L	Told 3 others about 4-H camp experiences;wore 4-H vest to school which I made;gained a new member for the club; answered questions at workshop by Ext.Agent; attended church with 4-H club;worked bake sale for 4-H club; made signs and decoration for sale & meeting;4hrs; attended 4-H club trip to Fiesta Texas during 4-H week 6hrs..Volunteer

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
07-09	Bell County Youth Fair through 4-H	Helped others show birds Y	Provided support to 2 other members, helped show heavy birds with 2 other 4-H members.
07-08	Bell County Youth through 4-H	Taught others about raising birds for show Y	Served as role model and taught 2 others about choosing which bird to show; demonstrated important points when showing poultry.
07-08	4-H Fashion Show	Judged young contestants Y	Served as role model; gave advice and taught young 6 4-H members how to be better competitors, demonstrated leadership skills.
05-08	Ss. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church	Managed kitchen for fund raiser P	Supervised and organized kitchen and food service preparations for fund-raiser for 5 church youth; used best practices in food preparation and in working with others worked fund-raiser for 3hrs each time..
07-08	National Honor Society	Organized banquet P	Organized and taught 4 others how to set-up for banquets; used food and nutrition skills to demonstrate to others what to do and why.
06-08	Holland 4-H club	Donated dozens of canned goods M	Supported community wide efforts to help the less fortunate; brought food for needy families; used food and nutrition skills to choose best food to bring. 5 items for each year.
01-09	Donation	Donated over 75 processed birds @ .89 per lb P.	Learned processing techniques for 310 chickens; learned gardening and food preservation techniques; hard work, perseverance; compassion for others. Donated over 100lbs of produce/ 3650 hrs. spent working .
07-08	Santa Letters	Wrote letters from Santa to children in Holland M	Used communication skills in writing 6 letters for 2hrs. from Santa to children in Holland so they could have a merrier Christmas and help them feel that there are those who care about them.
07-08	Relay for Life	Bake sale: brought cakes for fund-raiser and sold ads M	Used team-work and public speaking skills to bring 5 cakes to bake sale and sell ads for fund-raiser for cancer research; used verbal communication skills and leadership to help with this cause. 6hrs.
07-08	Fund-Raiser for Cancer Patient	Participated in events P	Paid to participate in games and activities for cancer patient to raise funds for his medical expenses. Demonstrated service and compassion by participation and fees paid 6hrs.
02-06	Helping County Agents	Helped agents sort 2,000 containers and prepare for Bell County Fair P	The Bell County Fair is one of the largest in Texas with over 2,000 FCS entries every year. The agents needed helped in sorting, bagging, and organizing containers for all of the club entries in the county in preparation for the fair. I helped organize and show 5 others how to best prepare for this massive undertaking for 7hrs..
05-06	Friends Feeding Friends	Ambassador to collected food for poor P	Along with 1 another 4-H member and the agent we helped gather and organize 50 canned goods for the poor for this county-wide large scale effort.
04-05	Project Linus	Made quilt for PL and donated Y	Because many cancer patients need comfort during treatment; I made and donated a quilt to aid in the comfort of a young cancer patient. Donated material for others to make quilts 6hrs..
04-06	Ambulance Fund-Raiser	Managed booth P	Supervised and organized the money and organization of booth to raise funds for our ambulance service in Holland. Managed 5 workers and money for 6hrs.
04-07	3-4 Community Banquets per year.	Managed tea service P	Organized and managed tea service; ensured tea was prepared, served and refilled and cleaned up 6hrs. Used supervisory skills; communication. for 6 workers.

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?
07-08	Gold Star	county	It is the representation of years of hard work, community service, and leadership. This was a humbling honor to have served my club, community and county in such a way that I was able to receive this award thanks to the support and help of my family and club..
06-07	"I Dare You"	county	This award was an inspiration to me to become a better leader and to strive to do more to serve others while working to achieve my goals of service to others, knowledge and leadership thanks to the support of my club and family..
05-06	Senior Family & Consumer Science Award from the Bell County Education Extension Club	county	It was so moving to receive this award as it reflects the many hours of work and dedication to a goal of achieving excellence in all my endeavors with the help and support of my club. It also shows the commitment of my family to help me achieve and so to inspire me to represent them well in everything I do and say.
04-05	Silver Star	county	The Silver Star was motivational to me in that I could see that hard work and dedication will serve me well as I strive to be the best that I can be and so I can help others be their best and reflect well on my family and club..

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.**

SCHOOL: 2003-2009

ATHLETICS: Ran track, volleyball, and basketball; learned teamwork, perseverance; improved skills in all areas; All District Hon. Men volleyball 2008; Bi-District team in volleyball 2008; JV Sprint relay team 2nd in District; 130hrs per semester

BAND: Trombone section leader since 2005; learned leadership skills; earned Excellent rating on trombone and vocal solos; learned dedication and goal-setting; taught 5 others how to be better band members; All State Band Member; 2008 Band Sweetheart; learned leadership and social skills; 100hrs. per semester

NHS member 06-07 served others through scholarship and service; helped with clean up/ set up of reception 2hrs.

UIL Academic Events: placed 5th in Number Sense, competed on Mathematics and Calculator teams; learned advance math skills, taught 2 others, 4hrs.; improved goal-setting; All A Honor Roll, 2006-08; Outstanding Math, History, and English student, and named Student of the Month, learned dedication, classroom skills, perseverance; 2008 President's List of students at Temple College; learned advanced math, English and Government objectives; tutored 3 others who needed help 2hrs; Valedictorian of the class of 2009; learned to strive and accomplish goals that are set. 150 hrs. per semester

FFA: served as an officer; learned duties of officers, conducted business, learned parliamentary procedure; earned Star Greenhand Award 2006; learned teamwork; goal setting; 2nd Place Quiz team; entered Creed Speaking-polished speaking skills, poise, self confidence; FFA Convention 4 years; voting delegate 3 yrs, State FFA Chorus 8hrs a day for 4 days out of 5, summer 2008; learned choral skills, teamwork, pursuit of excellence; Raised over \$400. for FFA each year in fund-raising; helped sponsor sort and distribute fund-raising items to members 6hrs. 2 years; helped sponsor with paperwork and computer skills 6hrs.

2008-09 FCCLA member entered Fashion Design contest; improved sewing skills on pillow, toy, textile design, tailored garment: lining, shoulder pad placement, design display techniques; placed 2nd; 100hrs. per semester

Senior Class officer, elected Senior Class Queen 2008; demonstrated excellent inter-personal skills and rapport building.

Charter member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes: attended FCA camp on the TAMU campus 1 weekend. Learned responsibility and Christian values.

SPJST: State-wide Fraternal Benefit Society: 2003-09

Youth Club President 2yrs; Editor of Scrapbook 2yrs; Reporter 2yrs; conducted meetings for 15 members; used parliamentary procedure; sent meeting information to state newspaper Vestnik; sent letters to Vestnik; 1,000hrs.

Fund-raising for club raised \$50.00 in sales-4hrs; 2008 youngest delegate elected to the State Convention; 5 days at 7hrs each day; Made a motion from the floor; 08 oversaw 35 workers and 200 guests for Howdy Party for delegates 6hrs; food and set up/clean up for party 6hrs;

Won 1st and Second place awards at the District and State levels every year in group talent, individual talent, baking, photography, sewing, science & education contests;

Top Teen Merit Award-state honor; 1000 hrs of participation and service to the organization;

1st place state-wide essay contest on Patriotism sponsored by SPJST; Oversaw 5 youth members in fund-raiser for ambulance-5hrs; Oversaw garage sale items for Join Hands Day to benefit the Chamber of Commerce-proceeds donated to Cof C-4hrs. \$35.00 donated; Led youth to participate in contests-5 members, 5hrs; Cleaned up and set-up for banquets, parties, game nights activities 3hrs; Showed 3 other members proper preparation methods 2hrs;

Volunteered to clean up trash around lodge outside area-3hrs developed leadership skills, dedication, goal-setting, writing and communication skills, salesmanship, performance skills, used parliamentary procedure information;

Fund-raiser for cancer patient: participated in horse shoe contest, helped family raise money for treatment as well as horse shoes 6hrs.

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church; Catholic Youth Organization 30 members: 2003-09: altar server, reader, choir member, sold raffle tickets for church, earned over \$100. each year; spent 100hrs.;

Participated in class play performed for the church membership 3hrs.;

Worked in kitchen 2hrs for Catholic youth trip to Waco; used proper food preparation skills, sold plates; served at picnics/ fund raisers worked 3hrs at picnic; 3hrs at bazaar;

Cleaned up after picnics meals 1hrs; after bazaars 1hr each time since 2003.

Participated in Diocesan Youth Conference in Waco 48 hrs; 1,000 youth from Austin Diocese

Holland Area Chamber of Commerce Student of the Year Award 2009

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 there was this little chunky elementary kid who was amazed that people would actually buy a cake at the Bell County Youth Fair for several hundred or even thousands of dollars. When her mom told her that she just laughed and thought her mom was kidding. You know what? It really happened. This little girl's quick bread went for \$750.00! She could not believe it! Who would want such a thing? She also found out that cooking, canning, and sewing were fun and exciting skills that some people didn't know how to do. How peculiar to her when her whole family did those things. She came to find out that not every one knew how to cook can, sew, or process meat. In fact her mom was quite the city girl until she married this country boy! Turns out this little girl is me and I am so glad my parents taught me so much and that they learned so much.

When I was in the fourth grade, I interviewed for the Bronze Star for 4-H. I still didn't know how much there was in 4-H to do but my parents encouraged me to do more. My dad was so proud and my mom was too. He had been a member since he was a child and my mom had never done 4-H but she's made up for lost time! The Bronze Star was the first 'big' award for me and the first 'real' interview I had ever done. I was a little nervous. I had completed a 4-H recordbook and worked hard on my projects. One question the interviewer asked me was about my goals. I told her that I wanted to graduate from high school as Valedictorian and go to Texas A & M University. She smiled at such a distant and serious goal coming from such a young 4-H member. Well, guess what? I did! Here I am so many years later, still working hard at school and other activities and I will be the Valedictorian of the class of 2009 of Holland High School. I have already been accepted by Texas A & M University. I am thrilled to be in this position. It was a long and difficult road to reach this point but through hard work, determination, and a very supportive family, I am here at last. My family and their support has made a great difference in my life. I would not have been able to compete as successfully without their love and support.

Although I made all A's through most of my school years, it was not all that easy! I did have to work very hard in reading and spelling. Math did come easy for me which was a blessing. I had to have speech therapy in kindergarten. Speech therapy helped me tremendously to get the sound/symbol correlation and I am thankful to have had such excellent teachers as I did at Holland ISD. Although I was gifted in math, my parents worked with me on homework whenever I needed help. I had help from my mother in Spanish and English and occasionally from my dad in math. It was great having parents who were willing to help me and who could help. They were teachers and so could understand what kind of assistance was needed. They were always there for me whether it was homework help or attending ball games, contests, concerts, and stock shows. One very important lesson I learned from my parents was to help others. My whole family is involved in community service activities whether through the church, 4-H, or other organizations.

I have served at many community banquets, fund-raisers, and been on clean up/set up committees. Service to others is an important value to me and to my family. Where would we all be if no one lifted a hand to help others? I can't imagine a world so devoid of compassion that no one would stop to help another person whether it is by cleaning up tables after an event, serving food and drink, or gathering food for the needy. Mostly, 4-H has taught me that to be a leader in the community is to get involved with others. Through my 4-H projects, 4-H contests, and other 4-H activities I have learned to serve others. I have served on committees, held several different offices in our club, attended County Council meetings, and guided other 4-H members in the best practices for their projects. The recordbook event was another event that truly helped me in my growth as a 4-H member. By keeping a recordbook I could see how my projects have grown over the years and how I have been able to help others in their quest for excellence. 4-H has taught me that in everything there are times when no matter how hard one works at something, things don't always go the way you want them to. I also learned that not winning first place in a contest doesn't make one a loser; that one can be winner even though the ribbon is red, or green! 4-H has taught me how to be patient and to work with others who are young and inexperienced. I have learned how to help others show their poultry, how to sew, and how to best prepare their winning items for the auction at the Bell County Fair.

Through the various contests in 4-H such as Fashion show, Consumer Decision-Making, and Share the Fun, I have met dozens of fine students and adults who were from many different parts of Texas; some public school students and some who were home-schooled. I learned that new acquaintances and friends can come from all areas of the state, from all walks of life and of all ages. This was another wonderful life lesson learned through participation in 4-H.

When I think about what I can do in my life now that a new chapter is about to begin, I think about the 4-H pledge. As I say the pledge at each meeting, the words become more significant when I think about the far-reaching consequences of pledge my head, heart, hands, and health, to serve my community and my world. I need clear thinking when I think about what I can do to serve others and make this world a better place. Whether I teach math, or serve others in another capacity such as research, the compassion for others and dedication to service I learned through participation in 4-H will stay with me now and in the future.

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.

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'Nothing less than your best' is the maxim that my family has instilled in my brother and me. Both of my parents worked hard all of their lives and they have expected me to do the same; to make the most of the gifts given to me. I never expected not to go to college and maybe graduate school. I have always dreamed of attending Texas A & M University. Since my gift is math and I enjoy it, I plan to major in mathematics and to teach. It's exciting and rewarding to watch others learn. My parents are both educators and I have learned so much about the value of the profession from them. They are a big influence on my life and career choice. I have learned that math is a critical need subject and that many people really need well-prepared math teachers to help them in their careers. I have visited the TAMU campus for FCA camp, Aggie Game Day Application Workshop, and for State Round-up. I found it to be a great place with friendly people willing to explain the information about college in general and TAMU specifically. I received some great ideas about my entrance essays as well as other valuable information. Educators will always be in high demand especially in subjects like math and science. For me the baccalaureate degree is the only route to achieve my dream of teaching and coaching in high school and perhaps some day in college. As stated in the TAMU admissions packet, the average salary of a 25 year-old college graduate is \$49,900 compared to \$30,800 the average salary of a 25 year-old without a college degree. Of course, money itself is not everything; but, it is a great feeling to know I can live a comfortable lifestyle with a college degree. TAMU has been rated as the number 1 institution for a great return on the investment in a degree.

Since I was a freshman in high school I have had a job working in the kitchen of the SPJST lodge in Holland. Every Thursday night we make well over 100 hamburgers to order. I work from 5pm to 9pm, making burgers, cleaning, and selling coffee and sweets. Sometimes I work on the first Saturday of the month if they need the help. Occasionally, I pick up some extra cash by helping the adult cleaning crew after a big event at the lodge. I make enough money to put gas in my car for the week. Maintaining a car and being able to buy my own clothes and incidentals are big responsibilities but they are exciting opportunities as well.

I have been offered an internship with the local TXDOT office. There I would be able to put my math skills to work in a real-world environment working with TxDOT employees, checking density of the road materials, of bridge strength, etc.

I have worked hard on 4-H projects throughout my time in 4-H and through those projects with my family's help, I have learned the value of a dollar, how to persevere, and that sometimes even if you do work hard, you don't always win. Sometimes your best show bird dies before the show or your cakes fall or your sewn garment just doesn't work the way it should. Then you learn how to learn from mistakes, what to do better next time and how to persevere even when the going gets tough. I learned that whenever disappointments come, to make the most of them and to learn from them. Even though a person might work really hard on a project, sometimes that project or performance just isn't going to win. Not winning does not always equate with failure. Sometimes the best lessons are learned through failure and disappointment. Farmers know that sometimes rain doesn't come in time, or a freeze comes at the wrong time or dozens of events happen that are out of the farmer's control. And yet, farmers, agribusiness people, and all of us know that we must press on in spite of disappointments. It is true that even though some things are out of a person's control, if one works hard, plans, prepares, and follows through, success will come. Through the many hours spent on 4-H projects and in many academic areas, as well as in sports and music I have grown and become a better person for having struggled and succeeded. I learned that giving up is not an option; that in order to be my personal best, I need to put forth the effort necessary to achieve. I feel that through all of these experiences; some good and some not so good; that I am prepared for the next step in becoming a productive member of society and prepared for the challenges of university life.