

Why is the Edwin Marsh scholarship important to you?

Ten days ago, I finally left behind a place that has been my second home for the past thirteen years. From kindergarten to senior year, I have spent about sixteen thousand hours growing within those four walls. After all the celebration of graduating, it left me realizing; this ending is just the start of who I will become. Although, I do not want to forget what I accomplished and worked for these past four years especially.

When I was around the age of fourteen, I started experiencing pain in my right shoulder. I had been the ace pitcher for my softball team and just proved my importance at my new school, knowing nobody. Fourteen years old was a very young age to experience pain influenced by sports, and it left my parents concerned. After lots of research and phone calls, my dad reached out to Jonathon Hon, a certified Tincher Pitching instructor.

As a family, we were warned aplenty that my pitching would get worse before it got better. I went into Jonathon's "pitching lab" with an open mindset. He told me I would have to completely start from scratch. It took me about a year and a half to get back to where I left off. I was proud of myself but still discouraged. While I was working to get back to where I was, all my competition was getting better.

High school ball had kicked off my freshman year, and although travel softball is where the talent and recruiting are, it was still upsetting to be stuck in the shadows, being left out of the headlines in the paper, and being forgotten by your community. My mom always stayed positive and told me that I did not need validation from anyone to be successful. When I get an opportunity, I have to shine.

Now that my high school career has come to an end, I have accomplished and received many awards that I am proud of. Even though it is just a sport, this struggle taught me perseverance. I

have come to earn a very honorable conference mental attitude award, all conference, academic all state, academic all conference, academic hall of fame, and as a captain this past year, there were many team accomplishments and wins as well. Softball has had a huge influence on my process of becoming a more mature young adult. It has been one of my biggest life journeys thus far and I thank it for not only giving me joy and happiness but for teaching me how to deal with adversity.

As a former member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and Kiwanis Key Club, I have put many hours into volunteering and it has helped me discover something I love. I truly believe that I have found something special in a career that has everything I am looking for. I will be attending Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame this coming fall to pursue a degree in communication sciences and disorders.

The profession of Speech Language Pathology will allow me to work with children, help people in need, and give me the opportunity to one day lead a life as a mother with a life devoted to her children and still be able to have a career. I intend to also expand my knowledge outside of my degree, and learn American Sign Language. I believe that this skill will open the gate to more people that need help. After participating in peer tutoring for students with special needs and having the opportunity to be a cadet teacher for preschoolers ages 3-6, I am sure that this career field is something I will fall in love with.

I have always been taught "don't do it for the glory," so whenever an opportunity arises for me to make a difference in someone's day, I tend to do it and keep on moving. A couple instances I can recently call to mind would be when I decided to buy the girls I babysit Christmas presents and also donate to Toy For Tots. It always makes me feel good to be the reason someone is happy. Negativity spreads like the plague so no matter where I am or what I'm doing I try to

always spread positivity. One of my most prideful things to talk about was when I was given the opportunity to tutor an elementary student over the summer. I planned hourly lessons and implemented his interests as well as fun games. I recently heard back from his mom that he passed his state testing with excellence and also was inducted into the academic team. I love spreading acts of kindness throughout my community and going the extra mile for the people I care about.

The thing I believe truly sets me apart is that I never give up. I have overcome ups and downs and it has shaped me into a better rounded person. This reassures me that no matter how hard college gets I will always work through it. I have also faced emotional difficulties such as family loss while still juggling school and sports. I am not willing to stop at anything until I am satisfied. I know I can handle anything thrown at me and I am very excited to start a more independent journey in college.

The Edwin Marsh scholarship would greatly aid me in my future. My family is a long line of building trades members. My grandpa, great uncles, uncles, cousins, and dad have all been or currently are IronWorkers. This scholarship would allow me to reach my life goals sooner as I would have smaller debts to pay off. I am known by my peers as a hard worker. I have put many hours into my education and earned the grades and 3.959 GPA that I am proud to have. My future starts now and the opportunity to represent the Edwin Marsh Memorial Scholarship would be a great honor to hold.