

## Importance of Hard Work

One of my most meaningful accomplishments would be going to college, I am a first-generation college student and I knew that achieving that goal was very important to me. When I realized that it was something I really wanted to do I knew I had to take the initiative to accomplish it; I knew that I would not be walked through the process and that it would take hard work and research to achieve what I wanted. I took responsibility of keeping track of timelines and due dates, keeping my grades good in school- all while balancing a part-time job out of class. Another significant achievement in my personal life would be the independence I have attained while taking care of my brother and me. My dad has always been a firefighter and had to balance work while caring for my brother and me. When he was away at forest fires or just at his 24 to 48-hour shifts I would take the initiative to get me and my brother to practices and school, or to any other appointments that we needed to get to. Taking care of my brother was a tremendous amount of responsibility, but it showed me how to be self-reliant and has to be one of my largest personal fulfillments. Additionally, I grew up with my mom travelling to work and dedicating her life to taking care of my brother and I. So, people exemplifying hard work has always been around me.

These things to me, are the definition of hard work. And, none of that work stopped once I reached college; I got a part time job with a full load of classes and was elected into an executive position in my sorority house which required about 20 hours of work a week on top

of everything I was already involved in. A specific time that I worked extremely hard in school was for a calculus class I was required to take to certify into my construction management major, math has always been a struggle for me and this class proved to be the same. I attended every class and lab, completed every homework on time but my test scores did not reflect my hours of studying or work in the class. After a few weeks I knew that I needed to seek extra help and I reached out to my professor who helped tutor me and turned me towards the math tutoring center in the school, as well as arranging for me to test separately to calm my testing anxiety. Before the last few exams I sat in the tutoring center for hours on end until I understood the material. I visited my professor regularly to make sure I understood the most recent concepts and to check in with him. When final exam scores came out I achieved such a high score it raised my grade by 8%, it is by far the hardest I have ever worked in school and it paid off to the highest extent; I couldn't have received that grade any other way except with hard work and dedication. In this generation, many young adults are walked through life with a hand to hold- I have learned the importance of independence and perseverance. I believe that hard work is key to a successful and fulfilling life where you are humbled and proud of everything you have accomplished.