

Life is full of obstacles that can either define you or encourage you. I discovered early on in my life that I would be met with obstacles; however, with my family and faith, we would be persevered with personal journey, a team-like dedication. My dad passed away after a long illness during my eighth grade year. During his terminal illness and after his passing, many responsibilities fell on my shoulders. I decided to not let this tragedy define me, but rather to encourage and motivate me to set goals and attain them with daily determination. I worked with my coach, family, and pastor to set goals for athletics, schoolwork, and developing my character for leadership.

I saw a need in my community to help with the Wounded Warriors Project. I was able to coordinate Kenai River fishing trip for our veterans, as well as meals for veterans in need. I also volunteered to help with all their community fund raising. This group was special to me as my Great Grandfather served in World War II with the 82nd Airborne and was a decorated Veteran. His determination and focus on humanity and community always motivated me to see the good in all. This idea carried on to the football field when I met my high school football coach, Galen Brantley. Coach Brantley challenged me early on to be better and to work harder; this meant more time in the weight room and cultivating friendships and leadership skills: leading up to our team to winning a state championship. I began my quest of leading the team by example through meeting my coach every day in the school weight room at 6:00 a.m. to work harder, to be stronger and, to show my teammates that anyone can do it. It became a commitment and a lifestyle that ultimately encouraged other players to be leaders and competitive players.

Through goal setting, I envisioned my future far past high school football, and carried the traits of commitment, loyalty, and team spirit to the next chapter: pursuing a career in law enforcement. I joined two local organizations that specialized in training and educating student prospects for a career in law enforcement. During my junior year, I enrolled with the Alaska State Troopers Citizen Academy and the Soldotna Police Explorers Academy. These organizations were weekly opportunities to volunteer and support my community. As Vice-President of these organizations, I was able to model healthy life choices, active community involvement, and progressive goals for myself and other high school students. I used my grant writing and presentation skills to secure \$2,000.00 for training opportunities for the State Troopers Citizen Academy.

My goals have always centered around advancing my academic performance and personal development in order to better serve others. Recognizing the importance of these multi-pronged academic challenges, I have earned the honor roll designation every semester at Soldotna High School. I intend to continue attaining this level of academic rigor and community involvement during my post-secondary pursuit of a degree. Upon graduation, I plan to become a law enforcement officer and continuing to give back to my community.