

Essay Response
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Growing up in a small, remote part of Alaska, healthcare services are limited. My town is about a six-hour drive from Anchorage, which is where the nearest cancer center is located. My personal experience with limited healthcare resources stems from watching my mother's battle with cancer. Due to my mom's aggressive treatment plan, she was forced to move to Anchorage to receive her cancer treatment. This transition was incredibly challenging for me emotionally, and it revealed the clear disparities in healthcare availability between urban and rural regions. My experience with my mom showed me how important it is that people in rural communities have the same access to healthcare services as people in urban areas. This realization fueled my passion to become a radiation technologist.

A large part of the radiation technology occupation involves connecting with patients and being there for them in a scary time of their life. I understand firsthand how scared and helpless families can feel. This occupation in particular demands a high level of emotional intelligence. As a radiation technologist, I will be performing x-rays and other diagnostic imaging examinations on patients, but more importantly, I will be connecting with patients who may be unsure or scared about their diagnosis and treatment. I believe that my experiences with my mom will help further my connection with patients and allow me to connect with them and their families on a deeper level.

To reach my goal of becoming a radiation technologist, I will attend Idaho State University this fall to work towards a bachelor's degree in Radiographic Science. My dedication to academics is reflected in my class rank, as I am first in my high school graduating class. Throughout high school I have been taking college classes through my local community college, and this spring I will graduate with my Associates of Arts degree just weeks before finishing high school. This head start will allow me to work as a radiation technologist as soon as possible.

Beyond academics, I've been heavily involved in many of my school's sports and extracurriculars. I've played varsity basketball, ran varsity track and field, and have been the only girl on my school's varsity wrestling team. I'm proud to say that I was runner-up at the state wrestling tournament last year, a three-time state placer, and a four-time regional champion. Additionally, I earned the Most Outstanding Wrestler award at Regionals twice. Wrestling has taught me perseverance, discipline, and how hard work can lead to success, which are all qualities that I will carry into my future career.

I'm also a member of my school's Beta Club, National Honor Society, Student Government, and serve as the student representative for the School Board. One of my proudest accomplishments while in Student Government is the reopening and remodeling of the Buc Store, which had previously been closed for years. We were able to create a space that fosters school spirit and provides resources to the entire student body. The valuable leadership and organizational skills that I obtained from this project will not only help me excel in college academics, but will also support me as I work towards my goal of becoming a radiation technologist.

In conclusion, my education and career goals are driven by a desire to help people have access to medical services in rural communities, particularly medical imaging. My personal experience has shaped my understanding of the issue and has brought me to the realization that

healthcare services are needed in rural areas. I have a strong passion for this career path and want to be part of the solution for healthcare access for all. By becoming a radiologic technologist, I will be in a good position to serve my community while also serving the broader movement towards healthcare equality. I hope to make a positive impact on both my community and society as a whole by ensuring that healthcare is accessible to all, regardless of where they live.