

McKayla Randall

June Nelson Memorial Scholarship

When the school shut down at the beginning of March in 2020, I had no idea what the rest of my high school education would look like. As I looked at my screen in May trying to create a schedule for my senior year, I felt like I could do more than take high school classes. I decided to sign up for a year-long certificate program. I applied to UAF the day applications were due for the summer semester, at the moment in time I had no idea what I just got myself into. I knew that I wanted to accomplish more while being in high school, and I knew that will decision was going to help me do more and help me get a head start in life. This was also the perfect time to start we were in quarantine, so I had plenty of time on my hands.

I signed up to get a certificate in Medical Dental Receptionist, I started the program in May 2020, and I plan to finish in May of 2021. By the end of this certificate, I will have taken 30 college credits and have done 80 hours of on-the-job experience. It has not been easy being a high school student and a college student, but I truly believe that this year and the social distancing it has made me get my certificate I little bit less stressful. My high school teachers and my college professors have helped me succussed. They have supported me in my future endeavors even though they may seem like a long stretch. It has helped me gain connections with professors and advisors that will help me with my future career goals.

With COVID hitting and having to shut everything down it gave me time to research jobs and careers that I might enjoy. Schools only ever teach about the basic know careers, but after spending countless days researching, I found that there are careers that I've never heard of, but I am interested in them. The social distancing helped me find my future career path and where I want to go with my life.

Being at home has not been easy at times, but I believe that has helped me appreciate my education more and it has helped me become an advocate for my education. I know that I deserve the best well-rounded education and I believe that the Denali Borough School District and the University of Alaska have helped me transform my education and helped me maintain personal connections to support my educational goals and my career goals.