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Who influenced your direction in life?

A person worthy of an essay dedicated to them, is my Science teacher Ms. Shryock. Although my path in life has yet to grow, it has been rocky trying to choose a direction. Ms Shryock unknowingly shaped my pathway with her undying curiosity and excitement which showed me that adulthood isn't so glim. I first met Ms Shryock my sophomore year of high school in Biology class and since then, I have set my mind on pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Biology.

My freshman year I lacked the motivation to care for my education. Stepping in Ms Shryock's class showed me that learning can be exciting and rewarding. Every week we had assigned articles that taught us the science behind everyday things, labs, and we also applied our learnings to outside our school by visiting the forest behind Thunder Mountain High School and even studied dragonfly larva! Shryock's ability to incorporate engaging activities into learning set off adventures in my head about Biology. This new found motivation towards school quickly reflected on my grades to the point where I started earning extra credit during activities. Overall, the effort Shryock put into her classes helped shape me into a better student for my education.

The students in the classroom were not the only ones curious about what we would learn, so was Ms Shryock. Out of any teachers I have had in the past, no one has ever been so curious to hear others opinions on what they learned or what questions they might have. Eventually, her

ability to make students feel comfortable asking questions opened the door to receiving ideas she had never thought of. From my perspective, you don't see many adults happy to research ideas or continue expanding their knowledge. Seeing a bright-minded teacher like herself, is like coming across an oasis after a long and dry journey.

The new spark of interest for Science has led me to taking numerous Science classes. As of now, I am taking Honors Chemistry with Ms Shryock and I am also taking Marine Biology as an elective. My growing passion for learning did not go unnoticed, during my sophomore and junior year, I received a science award at the end of the year for Biology and Earth science for my performance and love for the classes.

Ms Shryock is not just a teacher for me, she is a role model. In her classes I gained valuable knowledge on science and who I strived to be as I get older. It is important to have a sense of self or at least a passion, and I give my thanks to Ms Shryock for showing me that curiosity and learning can go hand in hand which revealed a path for me to adventure as I go on to college at University of Alaska Fairbanks to study Biology.