

June Nelson Memorial Scholarship Essay 2020
Trevor R. Miller

My name is Trevor Miller, and I am applying for the June Nelson Memorial Scholarship. I grew up in Southeast Alaska on a little island called Wrangell, and am currently attending Wrangell High School. Southeast Alaska island life is pretty unique. I was born and raised in a Commercial Fishing family, and I have spent every year of my life in and out of Wrangell working on one of two of the family fishing vessels fishing for Dungeness crab, salmon, halibut, and shrimp. By being involved in my family's fishing businesses, I began working at a very young age and have not stopped since. Each year I am away from town from the middle of May to the beginning of September working through all the fisheries to provide for myself and for my family.

Hunting, fishing, and basketball are my biggest passions in life. During the school year when I am not fishing, you can find me either hiking in the mountains or out on the basketball court. I am a subsistence hunter and an avid basketball player. I hunt to provide food for my family in the winters, and the hiking helps me stay in shape for basketball season and the summer fisheries. When basketball season rolls around I commit all of my time to my team. I have continued to invest my time into my team all year round throughout all of high school, but recently stepping into the position of team captain has given me the opportunity to practice leadership and being a positive role model for my peers. It is important to me that the team gets together every chance we can, whether it's to rewatch old games, talk about what we do well and what we can improve on, or just have a team dinner. I will continue to do this after my high school career, as I hope to one day coach the Wrangell High School basketball team alongside running my own future fishing business.

I agree that critical thinking and the ability to listen to other perspectives is very important. Those characteristics have been important in both school and in my work. Being the team captain this year, I had to keep good relationships with my teammates. I worked hard on team building by having get togethers and listening carefully to frustrations, concerns, and needs of the team. I kept in very close contact with my coach and assistant coach to help make plans for our team. The ability to keep the team running hard and strong, even in times of hardship were important to me and right up until the very last game we played, this was successful. I feel proud of the communication skills I've developed in order to be the best for my team, my school, and my community. The same exact thing rings true in my work as crew. I have to keep good relationships, work hard, do my part to communicate with the Captain and others, in order to have a tight running ship. My experiences with speaking, writing, critical thinking, and ability to listen at a young age have already served me well, and I am confident will continue to in my future endeavors.

I have accepted my admission to Skagit Valley College and will be starting in Fall 2020 to pursue a two-year degree in Business Management. If time and finances permit, I may stay to also complete a degree in Diesel Mechanics. I plan to be a business owner and operate my own fishing vessel once I graduate, as my goal has always been to follow in my dad's, uncle's, and grandfather's footsteps. They are, and were, all excellent fishermen who passed their knowledge and advice down to my older brother and I. I ultimately plan to own a seine boat that is large enough to operate Brown King Crab, Tanner Crab, and Dungeness Crab fisheries, along with Halibut IFQ's, and of course my favorite fishery, Salmon Seining. I hope to be able to get into coaching between fisheries and during the "off season." I strive to inspire the youth of Wrangell, and to help them find their talents and strengths out on the basketball court, just like adults in the community did for me during my time as an athlete at Wrangell High School.

I hope that this letter will help give you a brief summary of who I am and what my goals are, and who you would be helping financially. Although I've had a great job for many years, every penny gets dumped back into the business I'm starting to create. My mother raised my sister, brother, and I on one teacher income after my father was lost in a commercial fishing boat accident when I was only three years old. College costs for our family have been large for her with the three of us. Thank you for your consideration of assisting me to reach my goals.

