

Leadership is something I believe I was born to do. Ever since I was in middle school, I've always been the person to step up and be a leader in group projects, clubs, and on sports teams. Leadership has been a huge part of my life, and I sincerely believe it is something that has shaped me into the person I am today and has driven me to succeed.

Academically, I've always wanted to do my best for my peers, especially during group projects or labs. Knowing that the effort I put in contributes to their grade has always pushed me to do better. My teachers have also inspired me to continue pushing towards excellence. My high school math teacher is the one I remember doing this the most. Even after I suddenly lost my Mother my sophomore year, she continued to encourage me and push me to finish the class after I fell behind on work. There were multiple times I thought about dropping that class, but I continued to push after receiving some "tough love".

Professionally, my boss has been a main contributor. She is always pushing me out of my comfort zone and asking me to try new things. I would hate to see her disappointed by my performance, so I always try my best. I also work in an industry where mine and my coworker's income relies on tips. It's a small restaurant, so we always split tips from all the tables at the end of the night. That for me means I must work harder because I am not responsible for just my own income but also my coworkers'.

At the end of the day, I think it's the people around me that motivates me. In school, I try my best for my peers and teachers. At work, I try my best for my boss and my coworkers. This all adds up to being the best leader I can for others. How can I serve others and do my best for them without being a leader? This is why I have always tried to succeed in every part of life— for others.

B

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." - Jane Goodall. This quote reminds me that every choice I make whether it is in school, work, or everyday life has some kind of impact on the world, big or small. It motivates me to stay focused, work hard, and always push myself to be better. Knowing that my actions matter both now and later in life drive me to be a better person academically, athletically, and morally.

A big part of my motivation comes from myself wanting to make an impact on the world. I want to build a future I am proud of, one where my profession helps others. When life gets challenging or stressful it reminds me that achieving my goals isn't for show, but it's for me and the person who I always wanted to become. That is what motivation is to me. It is about the person I want to become and if I keep driving and keep pushing myself then one day I will reach my goals.

Academically, I am motivated by the idea that my education is the foundation for everything I hope to accomplish. Doing well in school is not just about the grades to me, it is about gaining the knowledge and expertise I will need to make a difference. I take pride in working hard and what I am going to school for. This helps me grow in many ways not just as a person, but as a student. I am reminded everyday that every call I complete and every assignment I finish is one step closer to my future.

Professionally, I am driven by my long-term goals and the vision I have for becoming a zoological veterinarian. This career will give back to the community and help others in various ways. That inspires me to stay focused, take every opportunity to learn and stay on the path toward the career I'm working for.

The effort I put in today is shaping my future self as I make connections with professors, teammates, and new found friends. These connections are what motivates me to succeed in all areas of my life. I will always remember "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make"- Jane Goodall.

C

Patient Care at the Center

Growing up surrounded by medicine, choosing pharmacy as a profession was not a difficult choice. As a four-year-old, my mother donated one of her kidneys to my father - a miracle of modern medicine that has afforded my father the opportunity to live a normal, healthy life for the past 18 years. From an early age, I understood the power medicine has to empower and transform the lives of patients, families, and communities. Knowing that I wanted to pursue a career where I could improve the lives of those in my community, I began seeking opportunities within healthcare as a high school student. As I now reflect on my academic and professional journey as a third-year pharmacy student, one value has motivated me to succeed more than any other: I want to provide the best patient care possible to my future patients.

As a student at the University of Kansas, I have received several academic distinctions, including National Merit Finalist, KU Chancellor's Club Scholar, and placement on the Dean's Honor Roll each semester. In May, I graduated with my Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Studies with a 4.0 GPA along with completion of the University Honors Program. My academic success has offered me opportunities to join Phi Kappa Phi, an honor society representing the top 10% of each senior class, and Rho Chi, a pharmacy honor society composed of the top 20% of third-year pharmacy students. Undoubtedly, these honors and opportunities have been rewarding and motivating. However, doing well in school has been more personal than a letter on a transcript - it is a matter of how well I can provide patient care. Patients will count on my expert knowledge to educate them about their medications or make recommendations on over-the-counter products. This requires me to have a strong baseline knowledge of diseases and medications that I can apply to individual patients.

Outside of academics, I have had significant professional growth through formal job experiences and extracurriculars. After graduating high school, I was employed as a non-certified pharmacy technician at Hy-Vee Pharmacy in Topeka. As I gained valuable professional pharmacy experience, I quickly moved up to the positions of certified pharmacy technician and, thereafter, pharmacy intern. I have since been employed as a pharmacy intern at Stormont Vail, which has given me a more well-rounded view of pharmacy. Outside of these work experiences, I have developed my skills through involvement in several pharmacy organizations. I have held various positions, including president, vice president of patient care, historian, secretary, fundraising chair, and chair of Operation Substance Use Disorders. My involvement in these organizations has also given me opportunities to travel across the country to attend conferences and advocate for the profession of pharmacy. These experiences, both within the workplace and in student organizations, have allowed me to directly serve patients and develop professional skills. Such skills, including teamwork, leadership, and communication, will both directly and indirectly allow me to care for patients better. By managing pharmacy operations more efficiently, I can provide more time and resources for my patients.

My drive to provide the highest quality care for my patients continues to motivate me as I finish my last two years of pharmacy school. After graduation, I plan to pursue a residency to allow me to further grow my knowledge and skills so that I can be a better pharmacist.