

## What Drives Me?

A drive is a determined urge to attain a certain goal in one's life. Having a drive is essential to accomplishing an objective that is set for the future. I have a drive to be a pediatrician to help kids in need. In order to accomplish this, school is my number one priority. Being born with a cleft lip and palate has given me the motivation to help others. Growing up, I always knew I wanted to be a part of the medical field. As a kid, it may be harder to understand what or why something has happened to them. It's important for them to acknowledge that they are never alone. I myself, never understood why it was me who had to be born with a birth defect that made my childhood tougher than ever expected. I was fortunate enough to have a doctor that specializes in cleft palates right here in New Mexico. After having multiple surgeries growing up, I still had everyday challenges throughout my adolescence. In elementary school, I had difficulty with speech and spent hours in articulation classes. The most frustrating thing was saying something and no one else understanding. Getting bullied for stuttering and not speaking like everyone else made me feel less than them. This motivated me to try harder. I practiced my speech cards everyday and just perceiving a little accomplishment of saying a word or phrase right was one of the best feelings. Growing up made me change my perspective on things in a lot of ways. Having this birth defect made me, the humble and ambitious woman that I have grown to be. I truly believe I wouldn't be who I am without having to face all the challenges I did as a kid. This was an opportunity given to open new doors such as being a pediatrician.

I currently have an internship at Presbyterian Hospital in the Emergency Room. I have enjoyed every chance there to see new things through the doctors' perspective. Talking to patients there and just hearing what they have to say is so riveting and intriguing. It has broadened my perspective to understand even more than just what's in the books, but also real life situations. Growing up, I had been held back in a lot of ways from recovering from surgeries. That just made me stronger rather than weaker. I'm a high school senior attending Cibola High School as well as taking classes at Central New Mexico Community College. Maintaining my 4.0 has always been tough, but I believe that my drive is what is going to make it possible to continue working hard to help those kids like me in my future. Having motivation and determination is a key element in trying to accomplish anything. I have a long road ahead of me in school and I'm eager to excel and fulfill my dream career to be a pediatrician.