

Kenydi Young

Twin Falls High School

12th Grade

State: Idaho

What Drives Me?

Picture the wall of my Kindergarten classroom: white brick adorned with sparkly paper stars painstakingly cut by the hands of twenty hopeful kids, myself included. Just below a banner sporting “When I grow up...” is my own star, where I carefully scribbled, “When I grow up... I want to be a doctor!” Throughout my life, I have dreamed of working in the medical field, blossoming from an early love of medicine. When I was two-years-old, my pregnant mother brought me to all her appointments. Her OB-GYN, Dr. Gourley (unironically pronounced “Girly”), explained the medical aspects of my mom’s pregnancy to me in depth, and my love for medicine grew. After welcoming my brother into the world, I skipped down the hospital hallways giggling that, like Dr. Gourley, *I* was going to be a doctor--an exciting aspiration that has driven me through my ambitions ever since.

Those precious moments shared with Dr. Gourley planted a seed of inspiration in my toddler mind--a seed that has grown and evolved throughout my life. As a freshman, I enrolled in a dual credit medical terminology class, where my love of medicine rapidly expanded to the point where I watched videos of open heart surgeries at night until I drifted off to sleep. First semester of senior year, I finally participated in our EMT program, and I am already a Certified EMT! Of all my adventures in medicine, this became my favorite, shifting gears on my career

path away from OB-GYN in a *jiffy*. Whether I am loading a gurney or prepping for a *Soul Surfer* tourniquet moment, practicing Emergency Medicine feels *right*.

Always ready for a challenge, the exhilaration of medicine and helping others drives me to become much more! Following graduation, I will get my Bachelors degree as I pursue my dream career as a paramedic through the Honors Program at University of Utah. Due to its short drive from home, immense school spirit, and incredible medical program, my eyes have been set on this school ever since I declared my medical aspirations on those kindergarten construction paper stars.

Everybody has the possibility to succeed, and has their own driving factors to do so, all that is left is to simply act on them--to pour passion and persistence into everything you do, until those dreams are no longer dreams, but a reality. I cannot wait until my dreams soon become reality, so every time I turn in an advanced calculus assignment or take someone's blood pressure, I remember its purpose. I envision myself proud, smiling in my scrubs, as I hop in that ambulance, and the excitement that has served as my driving factors for so long finally drives me not only mentally, but literally, as I steer the ambulance to people in need. Picturing this future makes my heart flutter far above the average 60 to 100 beats per minute as I dream of living a life I love--a life that will inspire upcoming generations to be the "Dr. Gourleys" of tomorrow.