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Oklahoma

What Drives Me

Growing up in the household of newly immigrated Indian parents led much of my life to be surrounded by the culture of my motherland. Whether it was religion, music, or dance I found myself within my cultural origins. This identity however led to a stark contrast between many of my peers that did not understand my culture, leading me to be reclusive and quiet. Eventually, I joined clubs to meet new students who gave me a voice and room to express my personality. I used my voice to create clubs and take leadership roles, allowing me to empower others to find their voices.

For example, my participation in Technology Student's Association (TSA) as the president saw me going beyond facilitating information to members as I sought to engage and create connections with peers. Whether I was involved in group projects or creating collectives, I was improving the productivity of the club and strengthening connections with members. My leadership allowed for more interactions between group members, money raised, qualifications for the state competition, the creation of a physical arcade machine, and bolstering the academic reputation of my school.

Additionally, my participation in debate throughout high school allowed me to take the role of teacher to incoming participants. As a member, I learned proper argumentation and

oration skills, which allowed me to rise the rank among teammates and competitors. My skills and success led me to become designated captain of the debate team. As the captain, I ensured that I would share the essential skills I had learned to allow teammates to find their voice. The role as captain saw me reviewing cases and arguments which aided students and sent teammates to national level tournaments. My role as captain allowed me to promote education and ensured students would find their voice.

Moreover, as the founder of the Heart Healthy Honors organization, I was able to take the initiative to reduce systemic health issues and become an educator for children. I educated low-income minorities creating digestible content for elementary students, where I would educate the children on proper diet characteristics and the importance of exercise. I used my voice to network and implement this content into more classrooms. Overall, Heart Healthy Honors allowed me to impact my community and help in decreasing health issues.

In essence, the activities I took a leadership role in during high school saw me aiming to enable students to find their voices and increase productivity. As a future computer engineer, I believe that collaboration is key to the success of any project, and the voice I have gained from my peers has taught me the importance of being a leader. Ultimately, what drives me is the chance to empower others to find their voices and flourish as I have, which would allow students to have equal chances of success and improve our society. The Jiffy Lube scholarship would enable me to pursue higher education and aid others in their pursuits by validating students to find their voice.