Grace Wroldsen 12 Edward C. Reed High School Nevada

Helping people has always been an ambition of mine. I am compassionate and strive to give back to society and my community however I can. Education is the key for me to bring about positive change, and as a tenacious individual with big goals, my ambitions will take me further than just my undergraduate studies.

Since I was thirteen years old, I have strived to pursue a career in anesthesiology. Because my school district affords students several choices for their academic programs, I applied to the Medical Academy at the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology (AACT), a competitive career-technical high school. As an ambitious eighth-grader, I believed this program was the only option for me. After going through the rigorous steps of applying and interviewing, their final decision involved a random raffle selection, and I was waitlisted and never accepted. This was devastating for me, but I prepared for this outcome by securing a spot in Edward C. Reed High School's Enterprise Project Biomedical Academy. I was determined to stay focused and structured the entirety of my high school career to focus on medicine. I participated in medical group internships and I volunteer at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, Nevada.

In 2021, I successfully organized and facilitated a hygiene supply drive at Reed High School to donate to homeless individuals in Northern Nevada. I had the pleasure of donating a total of 1785 items to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. Poverty and lack of access to hygiene supplies can dramatically affect a community's overall health; however, helping provide fundamental supplies to my community is only a start in my fight toward health equity. Organizing this fundraiser made it clear that there are many factors contributing to these disparities, but a critical resource is also access to safe and affordable anesthetic care. Anesthesiologists work closely with obstetricians, and communities with health inequities are more likely to suffer from maternal and infant mortality. I wish to further immerse myself and expand my knowledge on health disparities, ultimately helping educate me on how I can contribute on a national, even global scale.

From the moment I was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, I knew I was meant to help others. I would jump between veterinarian, lawyer, and marine biologist, but once I was educated about healthcare professions, my focus has been medicine. What drives me is my desire to become a passionate, dedicated, and focused future anesthesiologist.