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What drives me is the motivation to overcome the education barrier in my family. To do this, I plan to attend college. I am a person with high motivation and work ethic from a young age. This comes from the people I am surrounded by and the traits passed down. Most of the people in my family have little education, and I have seen firsthand how they have overcome it to make a living for themselves. Being surrounded by highly motivated people like my grandparents and witnessing how they supported their families has helped me understand how far work ethic can get you.

I will be the first person in my family to receive a four-year degree. I will be the third person in my immediate family to receive a high school diploma. I am fortunate to have the educational opportunities that I do. I have learned that if I work hard enough at school, I won't have to feel the burden of providing for my family like they have. Much of my work ethic comes from being immersed in the Polish culture starting at a young age. My maternal grandparents immigrated from Poland and started their family. They helped raise me during my childhood. They owned a motel, and that's where they would watch me. Seeing how hard my grandparents worked towards their goals has inspired me, especially as I have started to form my own goals.

Some of the goals that I have set for myself include getting a college degree, starting a family, and using my degree to create more and improve affordable housing. I want to go to college to become an architectural engineer. This will help me understand how buildings work and give me the creativity to be as sustainable as possible to reduce building costs, causing housing prices to lower. I am preparing to enter college to achieve these goals by taking IB and AP classes and extracurricular activities like volunteering and the ACE Mentorship program. Some of the volunteering activities include the STEAM day at my school, setting up a college fair and community clean ups. The ACE program allows me to work with professionals in the architecture and engineering fields to gain experience. I am currently on the national competition team for ACE where we are designing buildings and solutions for flooding problems.

Over coming the educational barriers in my family is what drives me. I plan to do this by going to college to get a degree in architectural engineering to gain the knowledge to increase the accessibility and quality of affordable housing. I also want to make my family proud by taking the work ethic they instilled in me and doing good in the world.