

Hope, Thompson

12th Grade

Bishop Kelley

Oklahoma

I've always been a person who doesn't really mind change, in fact I am excited by it. As a current high school senior, I know that the next year will be full of changes both big and small, and I can't wait to see what my future holds. In the midst of this uncertainty, I do have an idea of what I would like my future to consist of and what my personal plans are. When I think about my future, I know that I want my faith in God to remain the center of my life, I want creativity to be a consistent part of my life, and I would like to leave my own personal impact on the world. After I finish high school, I am taking the first step towards these goals by working at New Life Ranch over the summer as a camp counselor. I will be sharing the love of Jesus to my campers through creativity and hopefully leaving a spiritual impact on their hearts. Following this, I plan to further my education at Marist University in Poughkeepsie, New York starting in the Fall.

I have decided to further my education at Marist in order to pursue my dreams of making the world a better place through fashion. From the moment I learned to dress myself, I fell in love with the excitement of matching various garments together and adding endless accessories to complete each look that I had created. I have carried this creative spirit and love for fashion through my life, all while chasing this dream of making a career out of what I love to do. When it came to choosing a college, Marist University provided a multitude of opportunities for my

dreams to become reality. Marist has one of the top fashion programs in the country, and its proximity to New York City, the epicenter of fashion in America, is ideal for internships and other opportunities. Through the achievement of my goals, I will be able to make an impact on the world and change it for the better. As a member of the Brother Bernadine Scholars Program at Bishop Kelley High School, I wrote a ten page research paper and completed a capstone project surrounding the unhealthy relationship between sustainability and the fashion industry. My project was a physical implementation of what I learned from my research – I thrifted various materials and clothing items to repurpose them by designing and sewing together new outfits made from the recycled materials. I would love to apply my research and passions when furthering my education in order to pursue my dreams of making a difference in the sustainable impact of the fashion industry.

The idea of chasing my dreams is honestly thrilling, but dreams come at a cost. In my situation, that is the tuition of Marist. As a private school, the cost to attend Marist is much higher than many public universities. I come from a middle class family where my dad is a police officer and my mom is a physical therapist. My parents have been nothing but supportive of my future dreams, but they have also been down to earth about what they can realistically afford. In order for me to be able to pursue my dream, I am going to need to put in the work by applying for scholarship after scholarship in order to afford my dream school. I am more than willing to take on this challenge in order to face the exciting changes that my future holds and take the financial burden out of my parents' hands.