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### Jiffy Lube Scholarship Essay

16.8% of Native Americans receive a Bachelor's degree or higher in the United States. As a young Native American girl in this country I refuse to fall into these statistics. As I've gone through high school and continued to further my education I strive to do my best in everything I do. Not only have I done this for myself but for my family and my tribe back home.

My dedication to achieve a higher education is so much more than a diploma or something to add to my resume. Like I've stated before, the statistics of Native American people who receive a higher education beyond a bachelor's degree is significantly low. I have made it not only my goal but my mission to overcome and off balance these statistics even if it's one person at a time. Throughout my years of school I've not only viewed my education as something to benefit myself and my future but as a support system for other Native American students who might be struggling with education or just simply need a friend. This mission took action when I became heavily involved in NAYA a Native American Youth Association. With my time at NAYA I've gotten the chance to meet and bond with hundreds of other native american students, whether it's on a trip to New Mexico to tour colleges or study groups after school. These connections and bonds truly last a lifetime.

During these times I've realized that I can impact these treacherous statistics that Native American students are represented by. I find peace in helping and connecting with other students just like me that may need a little more help or just an ear that will listen to them. Success of one student won't change these statistics but success of many will do more than change the statistics. It will open hundreds of opportunities and doors for native students all

over. If I can help be the bridge that helps Native students achieve great success I will do whatever I can to make that possible. When I am handed that diploma and finally cross that stage after all of my years of overcoming vigorous challenges and hardships I want to know that I was a part of not only the tip in the statistics but a support aid of someone else's greatness.

My education continues to grow as I enter college to further study biology and become a labor and delivery nurse. As I receive my degree my goal is to go back to my reservation and schools in the area and speak out to the younger generations about the medical field and education statistics surrounding native students and to really just assure them that they are just as capable and they aren't alone. My degree will be used as a source of motivation and empowerment ensuring that the 16.8% is a statistic that will inflate and the Native American communities' education will continue to grow and exceed these statistics.