



W.H.E.E.L.

Scholarship Contest Winner

Samantha Davis

Topic:

New Career Choice, Your Inspiration, and Why Now?

Exactly 8 years ago from today, my life was forever changed. My mother at only 47 years old, passed away from her 3-year long battle with melanoma. I was 21 years old. I had a very full and busy life. I worked two jobs, and attended Mott Community College majoring in Social Work. July 19, 2013 changed any plan I ever had for myself and I took on an abundance of new roles. With my head held high, I knew I had to continue doing great things. They simply wouldn't look like how I imagined they would.

I grew up in a loving home in the small town of Imlay City, Michigan with my three younger brothers. We were middle class, and lived in a beautiful home on five acres in the country. My mother stayed at home, while my father owned his own machining business. I have many fond childhood memories that I will forever cherish. I had no idea that my adulthood would so drastically change.

In 2010, during my first semester of college, my father had a stroke and died. This was the first traumatic experience that put my college life on hold. I took a break from going to school full time, and instead focused on helping my mother with my three young brothers. I was 18 and they were 15, 10, and 5. Suddenly I found myself with a child's booster seat in the back seat of my car, and began my new journey.

This routine continued until my mother got very sick in 2013. I dropped everything and fully committed to driving myself and my brothers back and forth to U of M hospital in Ann Arbor. I was also taking care of our childhood home and attempting to keep my brother's lives as normal as possible. I am thankful every day for my brothers, for they kept me strong. After our mother passed away, I devoted myself to them. I took guardianship of the youngest two boys, ages 8 and 13 at the time. Eventually, things began to feel normal again. I made the decision to start a family of my own while raising them, and in 2015 and 2017, I welcomed two beautiful little girls into the world.

Once my children and brothers were all to the ages of some self-sufficiency, I knew I couldn't continue my role as "just" a mother. Although that is no easy task in itself. I yearned to get back into school and start a career. Finally, in 2019, I made the decision to enroll at Lansing Community College. I dove head first into completing the pre-requisites needed for the Radiologic Technology program. I worked hard at the balancing act, that I've now almost perfected: school, children, job, repeat. After two long years I was able to submit my application to this program and I recently learned that I was accepted! In August, I will start the 2 year process of earning an Associates degree in Applied Science for Radiologic Technology.

Now, that the hardest hurdles have been jumped, I can finally focus on my own future. I want to provide care to people who need it, just like others provided to both of my parents throughout the years. I have two strong willed daughters watching me every step of the way, for even more inspiration. If there is one thing that I've learned, it's that no matter how difficult or unfair life can be sometimes, I am stronger than any hardship that can be thrown my way. I hope that my brothers and daughters will all grow to see that reflected from my life someday.