



# W.H.E.E.L.

## Scholarship Contest Winner

**Maryam Abbas**

**Topic:**

New Career Choice

Why Now?

Your Inspiration

Ever since I have entered the public school system I fell in love with the education system. Being an elementary education major gave me so much inspiration to give back to my community and my parents. My parents did not have an education and I felt that it was my job to follow the steps of the education system and be able to tell my kids that I had an education and tell them stories and memories that I had with some of my many funny teachers that I had. The amount of background experience I had with kids keep growing everyday. I would frequently visit my old private school and help volunteer my time with the kids and give back to the school with the sprinkle of knowledge that I gained in my K-12 years.

I became inspired to major in education because of how much it is needed in these fast-paced, modern times all over the world and especially in our community. Seeing children grow because of the impact of education they will receive from their teachers may open doors and opportunities for a future they can't even imagine. It is teachers that have inspired brilliant people that are doing good things in this world, and it was teachers that made them what they are today. My very own teachers/professors had a tremendous impact on my life when times were rough for me. They would always be there to turn my bad days into good days when needed.

I believe that now teachers are needed more than ever, especially since the election. Students have been severely impacted more than one might think, and I was one of the very few that was more impacted by the election. Being a Muslim woman has been tough ever since the election. The looks I have been given and the words people would say to me like "Go back home". The other students experienced sadness and fear that affected their learning day by day. Becoming an educator I can support students and create a safe learning space for the kids. Teaching is one of the main resources that can really help students succeed in life.

My goal is to complete my Associates Degree in Transfer Studies at Lansing Community College. Upon graduating, I plan on transferring to Ferris State University to pursue my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Receiving this scholarship will push me further towards my Transfer Studies Associates degree and my dream goal to one day have a successful career as a Teacher.