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Professor Stetzel
Autobiography

On May 31, 1988, I was born in Valparaiso Indiana to Todd and Janet Gore. I was my mother's first child, and my father's second. I had one older half brother, Joey, and later, I was followed by three more brothers; Jimmy, Jacob and Christopher. With so many people, things around my house have always been pretty hectic growing up. Despite the craziness, my parents have always done a great job of teaching us the proper ways to act and behave. Teaching us right from wrong, that family matters most, and many other important values. Most, if not all of these values have shaped me into the young lady I am today, which I will be writing about in this paper.

Growing up with so many younger brothers, I have always had to help them with their homework, chores, and many other things. Even though it may have been somewhat annoying at times, I always really enjoyed helping them and teaching them. I believe that these experiences have pushed my decision forward in wanting to become a teacher. School has always come pretty easy for me, and I have basically been the straight A student. I believe this also played a role in me wanting to become a teacher.

There is a quote that fits perfectly with what my parents have always tried to teach me, and that quote is: "Life is not about finding yourself, life is about *creating* yourself." My parents have always told us not to follow the crowd, but to make our own paths and always stand by our beliefs. For as long as I can remember, even when I was still very young, my parents have always told me to be myself, no matter what. If they even saw the tiniest bit of me trying to be something I was not, they would talk to me about it, and explain the importance of knowing your true self. This has had a great

impact on my life because I know how to stand on my own two feet. I'm not saying that things do not get hard sometimes, but I know better now than to try to fit in and be something I am not. There have been many situations throughout my life where it would have been easier to follow the crowd- to fit in, but I have that voice in the back of my head telling me to create my own path for myself. Having this value has helped me be my own person and also to become a more independent thinker and stronger person overall.

I believe that the most important values that my parents have taught me growing up is the importance of family. No matter what happens or who else comes in and out of our lives, family will always be around. This value has been reinforced throughout my whole life, and is something that plays a huge role in the lady that I have become because I love my family very much and always try to do right by them. I try to include my family in my life as much as possible, and this value is something that I plan on someday passing on to my children.

The hardest part of growing up to me was my senior year in high school- that's when it finally hit me that I was going to have to go to college soon, and possibly leave my family behind. This thought really scared me, and I decided that I was going to attend Purdue North Central, which is a local branch of Purdue University about twenty minutes from my house. I did not want to go away because I was too scared to go out on my own. After applying, and being accepted into their Elementary Education program, I had a talk with my best friend Sara, who was going to be attending Manchester College. I had never even heard of the school, but it seemed really nice. I decided to look into it after talking to her and my parents for a while about it, and in the end, decided to apply. After about a week and a half, I found the acceptance letter in my mailbox. At first, I was still a little

unsure about all of it, but I talked to my parents, Sara, and my boyfriend, and they all urged me to go away and try it, at least for a year.

To say the least, I am very happy that I decided to go away to college. I get along a lot better with my family now that I don't see them as much. I'll admit, it was extremely hard at the beginning, my grades dropped, I was really homesick, and I missed my own bed. Now being in the second semester of my first year, I am starting to get used to everything, and having more fun than I ever thought possible being on my own.