



Sophomore Scholarship Winner



Makayla Finamore

Grade:	Sophomore
Major:	Microbiology
Hometown:	Denver, CO
Synergy Classes:	Real life of an American College Student
Goal for after College	Are to go to med school and eventually become a Physicians assistant

Except from Makayla's Essay

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As cliché as it is, college has been an incredibly life changing experience. My mother is by far the most influential person in my life, which made leaving for school in a different state that much harder. For my first few months in Laramie, I was completely overcome with homesickness- to the point where I was planning on transferring out at semester. However, I stuck out those few months, and found, in the end, that being in college allowed me to grow into a more independent person. For the first time in my life, I was forced to rely on myself to use the resources and people around me to help myself out of my situation. A huge part of this transition was the synergy pro-

gram. I was very reluctant to be in this program at first, however it ending up having a positive impact on my academic standing for the year. The connections that I made with professors and classmates are the very thing that helped me to find my way out of my homesickness. These teachers and classmates, along with my newfound independence, helped me learn how to set goals for myself and manage my time, which only spurred on my motivation to receive a college degree.

I am a very academically motivated person so I had always known that I wanted to go to college, however I didn't anticipate the

drastic impact that it would have on my life.

I know that without a college degree, I would not be able to pursue my dream of going to medical school and becoming an emergency room doctor. To me, going to college signified becoming an independent adult. It was necessary for my career path, but more than that, it was necessary for me as a person. College has given me lifelong relationships and connections that will only continue to grow as I go through my time here at the University of Wyoming.