

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Gabrielle Schiltz

Scholarship amount: \$2,500 USCHI scholarship

Harvest crew: Schiltz Harvesting (Jerry, Paula and Michael Schiltz) of Selden, Kan.

Parents: Jeremy and Nicole Schiltz

School: Golden Plains High School in Rexford, Kan.



GABRIELLE
SCHILTZ

College intentions: Attend Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kan., majoring in early childhood education

Essay excerpt:

Have you ever heard the saying, “Families are like branches on a tree, we grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.”? Our family roots are definitely in custom cutting, having been in the family for four generations. My great grandfather started the business in 1959. My grandpa along with my uncle now man the operation. It doesn’t stop there. We all seem



FAMILY PHOTO

to have a hand in it. My dad uses his vacation time to help during the fall months, and my younger brother leaves to spend his summer to go with the crew.

The “harvest life” is far from something that is an easy job. It is a job that takes, not a few, but many hands. I have not been able to make the whole run with the crew from state to state, but I have been able to plant my roots and help in other ways. My sports seasons do not allow me to travel too far from home. Although, being apart of a family

that custom cuts has taught me things that I would not have learned otherwise. Doing a job like this means you have to be dedicated and flexible. You need to be ready to work many hours. You also need to be able to work with people because you live in close quarters. The whole crew becomes one big family.

A harvest crew needs many people to get all the jobs done. There, of course, needs to be the ones who drive the combines, tractors, and trucks, but there also needs to be the ones who do the supporting jobs to keep everything in place. I’ve had the opportunity to be the person behind the scenes who keeps everything running smoothly from home.

Following graduation, I want to pursue a job that allows me to help others. Early Childhood Education is one of the careers that is at the top of my list. I am undecided on where I want to pursue this endeavor, but I unfailingly know where my roots will always be. They have given me all I need to know in being successful.