

I was brought up in a traditional harvest family. I began my harvest career when I was only two weeks old. When I was six, I started driving the pickups moving from field to field then I started driving the grain cart and then making my climb to bigger and better equipment the combine. I have been all over the United States just about. We usually started out west in Arizona and California and slowly made our way home to the Texas Panhandle then up north to Kansas, Colorado, South Dakota and Montana. Once we reached Montana it was time for the long drive home for school. My fondest memory of driving home was watching all the Harley motorcycles heading towards Sturgis. My sister and I used to count the bikes when we were younger. I have cut about every type of crop out there from wheat, corn, garbanzo beans, sunflowers and milo. I have had many experiences during my harvesting career. Being brought up in a harvest atmosphere I have got to see the Grand Canyon, the Bad Lands, Mount Rushmore and many other unique places. I would always pray for rain, much to my dad's dislikes, so I could go to the fishing holes and fish all day long. One of my favorite things about harvest is getting to meet new people all the time and wondering what type of person you are going to pick up at the airport. Our family hired a lot of foreign help from South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. As a child I loved to bring them to my school so all the kids could listen to them talk and hear their life stories. I also enjoyed chasing the combines in the grain cart trying to keep the combines from stopping when they were full. I have learned many things from being on harvest starting from being a better leader, learning the value of a dollar, to learning the ropes about mechanics. My family and I do not travel like we did in the past due to Kernal Bundt and the high cost of fuel and insurance. I could not imagine life without harvest in some sort or fashion. If there is one particular thing I have learned from my harvest experiences is that I do want to get a college education and pursue a career as a sports trainer. Being a custom harvester has definitely changed since the 1980's, times are a lot harder, the weather is not predictable and the rising cost of fuel is a deterrent for all involved. Going to college is of utmost importance to me. With rising tuition and living expenses my college goals unfortunately depend on my receiving a scholarship. Earning a living in today's world necessitates a college degree and I am driven to make the most of my future. Being a sport enthusiast aspire me to pursue a career as a sports trainer or possibly a radiologist specializing in sports medicine. Both of my career choices involve extensive education. A scholarship would take some of the financial burden of my education off my parents and would not limit their ability to continue caring for my two younger sisters. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the U.S. Custom Harvester Scholarship Committee for taking the time to review my scholarship application. I feel that it would be an honor to receive this scholarship and get to attend classes at Texas Tech University and I will strive to achieve the standards of high achievements set forth amongst myself.