

My parents are Ron and Carla Smith, Smith Harvesting, Jewell, Kansas and Steve and Angela Henderson, Superior, Nebraska. My dad has been in the custom harvesting business for 33 years. I remember riding on his lap in the combine when I was young and wanting to be able to drive myself. Many long hours were spent there "learning". At the age of 11, I took over as a full time employee and with that came all the other responsibilities. It takes a special kind of person to be able to endure the early mornings and midnight hours night after night. Later, I was able to move the trucks from field to field and eventually looked old enough to take the trucks to the elevator.

Growing up, I was not accustomed to the typical family activities during the summer months. As other kids talked of family vacations, I knew I would be taking the same one every summer, but custom harvesting has always been a way of life for me. The people I have met and the many sights and scenery I have seen make it all worthwhile. It has given me life experiences that I will benefit from for the rest of my life. Harvesting has given me firsthand experience in what it takes to run a successful business. Very few are given the opportunity to grow up working alongside their family. You can learn a lot because they will tell it like it is.

The challenges a harvester can face on a daily basis are more than most kids ever see. I have had to step up and lead the crew on numerous occasions. Through this, I know there are no obstacles too great to overcome and I am able to look at my future with optimism towards all that I do. I have learned to be ambitious and work hard towards my goals. Harvesting teaches you to do a job well done when you are working for somebody else who stops by to view and appreciate the work you do.

My future plans are to major in Business Management at the University of Nebraska in Omaha. I know harvesting has a place in my future, as harvesting will always be an important part of my life. I plan to continue on with the family business, meet new people and be the best I can in all I do.

Thank you for considering my application for this scholarship. I know that all of my goals will remain dreams if I do not complete my business degree. Therefore, I am committed to working hard in school and looking for opportunities that help make my goals a reality.

Levi Smith

