

I, Jase, am a graduate of the 2019 class of [ACE Partner School] in Montana. The days following my graduation have been filled with writing thank you cards and the steady contemplation of all those who have influenced my life, including my future. First off I thought of my mother, who, even with a limited income, worked hard to make sure I was receiving a valuable education. Despite her hard work, she still could not afford to pay for my schooling at [ACE Partner School] without financial help. With that being the case, I would not have achieved my academic accomplishments without the contributions made by the donors of the ACE Scholarship Program who helped relieve our financial burden. Because of their sacrifices, I attended a school that provided a classical education which challenged me academically and inspired me to pursue a career I am passionate about where I will be able to give back to the community.

Flashback to 7th grade, my first year at [ACE Partner School], I was a fledgling compared to my classmates. Despite being in the same grade, academically, I felt they were light years ahead of me. How could this be though? At my previous school I was a “star” student. I even wanted my mom to put the sticker on her car as proof of it. The reality of the situation was I had been passed along having been told I was doing great, but never actually academically challenged. Everything changed when, because of my ACE Scholarship, I attended my private school. This school was different, I felt as though the staff cared about each student not only educationally but also individually. My teacher promptly helped me catch up with the rest of the class with private after school tutoring and for the rest of my grade school endeavor, I excelled. Now at the commencement of my high school education I realize the ACE Program’s vital role in my success.

Looking to the future, with the knowledge and character I developed at [ACE Partner School], I am attending Helena College of Technology to attain a two year Applied Science degree in Metal Fabrication. Ironically, I attended a high school that did not offer an Industrial Arts program, but rather encouraged my entrepreneurial spirit and independence. Despite my high school's staunch support for the liberal arts, they allowed me to pursue a path not so common for it's students. I sought out an apprenticeship opportunity and found a mentor who has helped me flourish in the welding trade. With my school's permission, sessions I spent learning the basics of welding and creating metal art were counted as class credits. In this way, I was able to venture into a career path I greatly enjoy and learn more about the trade than I ever could have possibly received in an actual Industrial Arts program. Because of my welding educational experience, my long-term career goal is to own a metal workshop and truly let my entrepreneurial spirit take off. In repayment to the community for all of the help I have received, I hope to one day take on an apprentice to establish a long lasting legacy of tradesman.

Upon graduating high school, I have realized that my life has been greatly influenced by the sacrifices of others. One of the greatest impacts on my life has been attending [ACE Partner School], which was only possible because of the ACE scholarship program. As a recipient of an ACE Scholarship, I was able to attend a classical school that challenged and inspired me to pursue a career I enjoy and which will allow me to give back to the community.