

Mayerling Colin- The Preuss School, UCSD, Class of 2020

Setting goals is of quintessential importance as they take us forward in life. Whatever journey we commence, goals are the first thing we rely on when we take our beginning step in our path, and they are the last thing we see once we accomplish our aim. Over the years, I have found that by setting goals, I am more prolific. Thus, I can realize my goals with a zeal that results in a nonpareil end product. I will continue utilizing this valuable skill throughout the rest of my life to reach my full potential not only as a student, but as an individual as well. As a short-term goal, I would like to partake in a summer program abroad that will expand my horizons while providing valuable knowledge and friendships. As a long-term goal, I am determined to graduate The Preuss School UCSD as valedictorian and with acceptance into an Ivy-League university. Although I know that both these goals require a tremendous amount of diligence, I know that if I set my mind and heart towards them, I will be able to accomplish them.

Traveling has been a wish but nearly never a reality. Thus, the New York Times Student Expeditions Scholarship captured my attention immediately. I applied for a program in which I would travel to Peru to learn about Public Health and Development in the Andes. Public health is a matter that is near and dear to my heart because of its paucity in my community. Two years ago, my mother struggled to maintain hope because without medical insurance, there was little to be done to treat her uterine fibroids. Thankfully, a doctor by the name of Wendy Buchi, voluntarily performed the surgery my mom so desperately needed for a reduced cost, while simultaneously reinforcing my yearning to become a doctor. By learning firsthand from health practitioners in regards to community-based health care, I hope to implement those same things in my community. My biggest limitations would be my own inhibitions if I were to have the

opportunity to win the scholarship. Living in a fairly small community, and attending a particularly minute high school, I am comfortable in my surroundings. It is not every day that I interact with new people or escape my comfort zone. I will find the courage in myself to overcome my fears because I know that it will be an extraordinary learning opportunity for me. If I had the honor in participating in the New York Times Student Journeys I would grow as a person and take my learnings back to my community in order to make it thrive.

When I was four years old, my family and I made the leap across countries once again to take advantage of the education system that the United States had to offer. I am thankful for the challenges I have had in my education because they have served to empower me as an individual. Going from spending hours translating my homework from English to Spanish and back again to a foreign tongue taught me resilience. Now, after having dominated the English language in part because of my innate love for reading, I have moved on to practice public speaking frequently and have developed an eloquence that I never thought would be within my reach years ago. I have taken advantage of any educational opportunities that have been presented to me whether they been in the form of challenging classes, summer programs, internships, or public speaking opportunities. As a sophomore, I am at the top of my class thanks to my diligence and determination. I hope to attend an Ivy League University because it will show other members in my community that no matter where your roots lay, you can achieve your greatest desires. My most eminent challenge to achieve my goal will be the limited information I have thus far about what the application process consists of for Ivy League universities. I will overcome this challenge by asking our college advisor for assistance throughout the way. I am currently friends with a senior who was accepted into Yale University, which is one of my dream colleges. As of right now, she is already giving me advice and tips on

how to excel. Both short term and long term goals require commitment and dedication, but because I am determined to succeed, I know in my heart I will be able to land among the stars and turn my dreams into realities.