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“In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity – it is a prerequisite.” President Barack H. Obama

In thinking about what the President’s statement means to you, how will your education help you leave a positive and lasting impact on your community?

In today’s competitive job market, getting an education is a necessary ingredient for success. It is most certainly advantageous in having doors opened to new opportunities. It is important to keep in mind that in a fast paced world, furthering one’s education is critical to landing jobs, as employers seek out those who have proven their work ethic through their schooling. Anyone can be friendly and outgoing, but what they know is just as important as their persona. This past summer, I interned at Bloomberg LP. The classes I took at school prior to that, and the achievements I have academically, had helped me receive this rewarding internship. That summer, I learned about the corporate world and was exposed to more new things than I ever had before. The education I’d received in my high school for the past three years were crucial in helping me prepare for an opportunity such as this.

My education in high school and college will help me leave a positive and lasting impact on my community. By learning the values of leadership, philanthropy, and gratitude throughout high school, I have already become involved in my community by volunteering. Through school, I became involved with the March of Dimes Chain Reaction Team. This involvement has allowed me to give back to those in my community as I helped plan a NICU Family Fare. This event was catered towards families with babies in the Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit. I also became involved with tutoring and through it, have helped contribute to the success of future generations. In helping other students aspire to learn, I aid the youth of today and the leaders of tomorrow. The continuation of these services throughout college will extend my volunteerism into the rest of my life.

In receiving an education, I will be eligible for many more opportunities that allow me to give back to my community. I will have credibility and certifications that will permit me to do things for society. An education will ensure that people will listen. An education makes people stand out from those who do not and the educated ones are the ones people respect and follow. In gaining support from others through being educated, I can help lead future movements and gain support for the funding of charities or community projects. The relationship between an education and service are intertwined as one can indefinitely lead to the other. An education will prepare people for many opportunities. Whitney M. Young Jr. said, “It is better to be prepared for an opportunity and not have one than to have an opportunity and not be prepared.” The preparation that one receives from an education is pivotal in helping them leave an impact on their community.