

I still remember my freshman year self trying to figure out what I wanted to do as a career. According to so many people, the earlier you figure out your college major, your career interests, the better. Wrong. I had so many interests at the time, how was I supposed to narrow it down when I haven't had any insight or experience. Besides, I was a freshman with a lot of time on my hands. At the activities fair, so many of my friends told me to do DECA. So I signed up for DECA. So many people told me "Oh you should do Science Olympiad", So I signed up for Science Olympiad. I didn't even realize what these clubs meant until they actually started. The funny thing is when they did start, they didn't give me what I expected. Sure, DECA taught me business and Science Olympiad taught me science of course, but it was more than that.

But it is the truth. Clubs in high school were more to me than just real world experience. They are a community. I met so many amazing people who I would have never met just by being in school six hours a day. It turns out that where my true career interest lies right at this moment has nothing to do with any of the clubs I participated in. Does that make the time spent in those clubs a waste? Not at all. I learned how to work with other people. I learned how to work under a pressured situation. I learned how to deal with the sting of rejection, and I even learned how to turn any unexpected outcome into learning experiences. These are all real world experiences I learned from probably around five different activities I participated these past four years. Sports, clubs, and school has taught me things you normally wouldn't think you learn in sports, clubs and in school.

My freshman year I took the AP Computer Science class offered here at north. With both of my parents in tech right now, I thought it would maybe be good exposure to what that career field might look like. I still remember walking in the first day as one of the only girls in that class and the youngest. The first week I debated with myself if I should even be in there, or if I should maybe try it out another year, but something in me wanted to stick with it just for the sake of

trying. At the end of that course, coding was not my favorite thing in the world but I was more so intrigued by what coding could do. After taking that class, I wanted to explore other aspects of stem and tech because there I knew there was so much more to learn.

The summer before my junior year, my laptop started acting really weird. It would shut off randomly, and would be extremely slow sometimes. I realized this was not normal at all so my dad and I took it to the apple store to get it checked out. Turns out, it had obtained a virus because I was a victim of something called "email phishing". This term basically means that someone or something is pretending to be something that they are not in attempts to get personal information from you from an email. I had no idea what or how I was email phished, but it had happened. And it really got me thinking, how many other people go through a similar experience. So out of my curiosity I created a fake email which presented itself to be from google security and presented the email which read, "your google account info has been compromised so we froze your account, reply to the email with a username and password to prevent further compromise and risk of your account being permanently closed. I worded the email in such a way for someone looking at it to really believe that it was from google security. I surveyed 112 people asking whether or not they would have believed it to be real, about 84% of those people replied with yes or maybe. I thought this was so interesting how easy it would be for someone trying to get account info with a simple yet convincing email. Since I believed in this topic of cybersecurity so much, I actually presented it at the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair in the Spring of 2020 and won a state award for it which was really awesome. I always had this preconceived notion that a science fair is something super nerdy and no one does it, but the people I met when I was there, were all super cool and they all had research projects that taught me so much, so I was super happy that I decided to take part in that.

While also in my junior year, one of my family's close family friends became very ill, and they lived close by so all of our neighbors and other friends who lived nearby tried their best to pitch in and help out that family with whatever they needed. Everyone has really good intentions, but I felt like all of our efforts could be maximized some other way. So I got this really cool idea to build an app which invites a close circle of friends and family to complete tasks or run errands for a specific person in need. It sounded great and all except... I didn't know how to make or go about creating an app at all. So a local business by us held these technology courses in different things, so I went there to try and learn the basics of app development and try to prototype the idea of this app I had since I had no clue at all how to do it. It took about three months and a ton of troubleshooting, but the prototype of it called "Good Deeds" was finally done and it felt so good to create that app in memory of someone who could have largely benefited from it. I am still currently trying to perfect that app to hopefully actually get it in the ios app store because I believe it could help so many different people with different needs. I entered my app into the congressional app challenge for Minnesota and I won that award I think because of the app's purpose and why I decided to create it. The most valuable lesson I learned from this experience was that even if you don't know how to do something at all, if you are willing to put in hrd work and if you are willing to learn, anything is possible. And that is a lesson that I am going to be carrying throughout my life because it applies to everything.

This coming fall of 2021, I am extremely excited to say that I will be a badger at the University of Wisconsin Madison. I am planning on majoring in computer science to learn even more than what I have already learned, and I hope to minor in entrepreneurship because that is a concept that I am extremely passionate about, and I believe technology and business are a great combination for me.

Lakeville North has meant so much more to me than just going to school and coming back home. This school to me stands for inclusiveness, support, and so much more. The students and all the staff here have built me up and have cared for me when I didn't even know I needed it. Believe it or not, every single day walking into school I have looked forward to coming in to see all the people who have been there for me these past four years which barely feels like any time has passed. I am going to miss north and the community it holds, but I will truly always carry the amazing memories I have made here.

I want to give a huge thank you to the Rotary for presenting me with this honor, I am extremely thankful. Also thank you so much to my dean, Ms. Standke for being there for me for the past four years and helping me whenever I need it, I also thank you Ms. Standke for recognizing all the different things and accomplishments I have done these past years. Thank you Ms. Budde for being an amazing principal for the past two years and thank you for listening to the students and their requests. It means a lot to me and the rest of the students. I also really want to thank both of my parents for supporting me and my passions no matter the challenges presented, and always pushing me to be the best version of myself I could possibly be. Thanks to everyone who has made this possible despite the current circumstances and I have been so honored to share my speech and my story with you all.