

Scholarships Allow Students to Impact Others

“Scholarships are absolutely vital for families like mine. Without the benefit of receiving multiple scholarships during my time at the Marshall University School of Pharmacy, I believe that I would have been a far less successful student. Scholarships help to ease some of the financial burden of attending a doctoral program, which in turn, allows for me to focus more on learning,” said Brentney Fields, a Doctor of Pharmacy candidate who is expected to graduate in May 2019. “I am eternally grateful. The impact you (scholarship donors) have made on my life will, in turn, allow me to impact many others as a pharmacist.”

A native of Kenova, West Virginia, Brentney is hoping to match with a local residency program and continue serving her community. She says she is excited that her profession requires to her be a lifelong learner. She chose to attend Marshall because it was important for her to remain close to her family and community.

“As someone who went back to school after having a family, I appreciated the innovation and use of a flipped classroom. I was able to watch lectures and view materials when it was convenient for me and then attend class where we used activities to reinforce learning the materials,” said Brentney, adding that her drive to return to school was fueled by her family.

“My husband and sons support me every step of the way. I also have my grandparents who are always there to help out. Balance is hard because I always feel like I am failing. I have sacrificed a lot of family time and missed out on a lot to complete my program,” she explained. “Without the support of my family, it would not have been possible. I hope that my children learn that it is never too late to change. You are never too old to follow your dream. I just want them to see me finish what I started and not give up when it gets hard; always keep working.”



Fun Facts

Class of 2019

Major: Doctor of Pharmacy

Hometown: Kenova, West Virginia

Favorite color: Green, of course

Favorite thing about Huntington: I love the small town feel we get while still having big city amenities.

Favorite spot off campus: The area surrounding Pullman Square. There is always something going on, great places to eat and a variety of things to do.

Textbooks or eBooks: eBooks. Textbooks are almost a burden to carry around.

Scholarships Allow Students to Impact Others (continued)

As the last class of Marshall University's School of Pharmacy to study solely within the Robert W. Coon Education Building at the VA Medical Center, Brentney believes the space off campus is nice for pharmacy students because they do not struggle to find parking or study space. Her favorite study space is behind the desk of Ms. Becky, the school receptionist, and adds that Ms. Becky always makes the time to help students and warmly greets each one.

"I love the community that we have built that includes the faculty, administration and students at the pharmacy school," said Brentney. "I always know who I can reach out to for help and have confidence that they will be there."

Brentney believes the faculty goes above and beyond to make sure students are learning the materials and reaching their goals. From always open office doors to encouragement and support, she said the common trait among faculty is that they are truly invested in student growth.

As one who values involvement and strives to make a difference, Brentney founded the School of Pharmacy chapter of American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), and served as a student representative for a student affairs committee in which she worked to shape policies that affect students. Brentney also used a grant received from an organization to provide supplemental science activities and prescription drug safety classes to local elementary schools. She believes her most impactful involvement is through her work as the West Virginia Advocacy Chair for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, where she meets with representatives to discuss important issues to people with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) and educate policy makers about needs associated with CF in hopes that an increased awareness will assist them in making helpful decisions regarding research, treatment and care.

Her family enjoys attending basketball games at the Cam Henderson Center and Marco is always a highlight for her children. Brentney's favorite thing about Huntington is the "small-town feel we get while still having big-city amenities." She enjoys visiting Pullman Square because there is always something going on. Her hope for Marshall is continued growth and involvement.

"I hope that our school continues to grow and impact the community in a positive way.... My hope is that the ties to the community and the involvement in our surrounding areas remains strong," she explained.

"Giving back is important because when you have the resources to do so, you can use them to lift others up. Allowing others to rise and achieve their goals is always a good investment."