

“Without scholarships, I would not have been able to come to college, and my dreams of helping people might not have even made it on my radar. Almost all of my tuition is covered by grants or scholarships and I am incredibly blessed and grateful to have received them,” said Starr Butcher, a junior psychology major.

The West Hamlin, West Virginia, native plans to pursue a doctoral degree upon her graduation. She dreams of opening an inpatient facility in nature for rural adolescents to young adults who struggle with mental illness and addiction. Starr says her favorite thing about her program is the diversity of perspectives and most looks forward to completing her clinical capstone so she can learn how to best help those in need.

“Psychology is an incredibly diverse and interesting topic on its own, but having professors that truly immerse themselves in these different viewpoints to teach the material is an amazing learning experience,” said Starr.

Crediting Dr. Dawn Goel, associate professor of psychology, as her favorite, Starr believes she stands out because of the genuine care she has for her students, while pushing them to be the best versions of themselves.

“If a student needs help on any part of her assignments, she and her graduate assistants are always there to help and be supportive. In addition to this, she is the advisor for Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, which is an equally strenuous task, yet she always makes time for her students and their questions and concerns,” Starr explained.



## Fun Facts

**Name:** Starr Butcher

**Class of 2021**

**Hometown:** West Hamlin, West Virginia

**Major:** Psychology

**Favorite color:** Yellow

**Textbooks or eBooks:** eBooks because I can easily download books offline for reading or carry them in my bag

**Favorite thing about Huntington:** The city is strong and its people continue to come together.

**Favorite spot off campus:** Pullman Square. There are so many good studying and lunch spots, and I can grab a coffee or see a movie with friends.

As a member of the Marching Thunder and various other music ensembles at Marshall, Starr always considered music a pursuit after high school. She is excited to travel to perform with Marching Thunder in London, England, this December. She believes that the proximity of Marshall to her hometown, her TRiO (a federally funded grant program) family, and the kindness of the College of Liberal Arts faculty and staff from her Green and White Days all helped Marshall feel like home. Now, her favorite tradition is when the Marching Thunder sings the alma mater after each football game, as she feels pride and joy in her school.

Starr's hope for Marshall is continued success and growth, inclusiveness and a loving atmosphere; a place each Son and Daughter can call home. She knows that part of this continued growth will come from alumni who understand the importance of giving back.

"I am from a poor, rural area, where many kids, although incredibly smart, fall victim to stereotypes and cycles of poverty. Scholarships give hope to those kids who feel like they cannot go to college and achieve what they want to do in life. Scholarships are a lifeline for first-generation college students, of which group I am a proud member."