

"I am very thankful and happy to receive my scholarships. As a recipient of the David E. Haden Scholarship for the Lewis College of Business and a scholarship from the Appalachian Leadership and Education Foundation, my scholarships mean a lot to me. They encourage me to do my best because donors are supporting me and I want to make them proud. Because of donors, I can pursue my education with confidence because they have my back," said McKenna Sunderland. "I am incredibly thankful to you!"

Majoring in entrepreneurship and management with a minor in marketing, McKenna plans to graduate in 2022. The Charleston, West Virginia, native chose Marshall for its proximity to her home and because she has family in Huntington. She loves the Huntington campus and that Marshall is a smaller school, as she believes she best learns in classrooms with fewer students. McKenna anticipates learning everything about entrepreneurship.

"I believe innovation is key to helping solve problems, so I am looking forward to learning about my major," she said.

McKenna believes her biggest challenge as a college student is realizing her time as a student will soon be over, as she will enter the workforce. Explaining that the fear of the unknown is scary, she appreciates the positivity her grandmother provides.

"My biggest supporter is my grandma. She is always asking me about school and life in general. She sends me letters all the time and encourages me to stay positive," McKenna explained.

With the goal of making a difference on campus and in the Huntington community before she graduates, McKenna prioritizes giving back and helping others. She is president of the Xi Upsilon chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, a professional business fraternity at Marshall. McKenna values her peers in the organization as they are inspiring and involved in campus and community projects that assist those in need.



## Fun Facts

**Name:** McKenna Sunderland

**Class of 2022**

**Hometown:** Charleston, West Virginia

**Major:** Entrepreneurship and management with a minor in marketing

**Favorite color:** Yellow

**Textbooks or eBooks:** Textbooks because they are easier to flip through and find what you are looking for, especially if you are already using your computer for the essay.

**Favorite thing about Huntington:** My favorite thing is how connected everything is. The small business community I think really makes everyone come together and I love that.

Citing Professor Olen York and Dr. Ben Eng as her favorite instructors, McKenna is thankful for their guidance, particularly with the iCenter. As one of three chosen from Marshall, McKenna completed a six week course to earn the title University Innovation Fellow (UIF) by Stanford University's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design.

"The most important thing I will take from this is that I can use entrepreneurship and innovations to help others. This program will impact my future because I have the tools and resources to help me make a difference on my campus and in my community," she explained.

"I believe alumni should give back because Marshall led you to your success. Without Marshall, you would not be where you are now. Giving back allows others to pursue their dreams like you did."