

“Scholarships give students a chance to have a successful future while helping prevent student debt. My scholarship comes from the Brad and Alys Smith Scholarship Fund and I wish that I could personally tell them what my scholarship means to me. The Fall 2019 semester was the first one that I did not have to take out any student loans, and that is so exciting for me,” said Caitlyn Epperheart. “I was shocked when I learned of my scholarship and I am very appreciative. This scholarship is helping me achieve my dream of being a teacher debt free.”

Commuting from Logan, West Virginia, Caitlyn is majoring in English Education for the fifth grade to adult and will graduate in 2022. She is excited to learn about “being in the shoes of a teacher” through classes that require clinical hours. As a transfer student, she decided to enroll at Marshall because she had visited the Huntington campus several times in high school and knew she would be happy in Huntington.

“I love that Marshall is an all-inclusive campus. No matter who you are, you feel welcome here,” she explained. “I love being on campus and it was hard for me during the spring semester to transition to virtual learning. For me, the only good thing was the time I saved driving to campus.”

Citing group video chatting as the most difficult part of virtual learning, Caitlyn is thankful for her advisor and education professor, Dr. Kathy Seelinger, and her English professor, Dr. Margaret Sullivan who helped students transition to online classes.

“I missed the personal connections with professors and classmates more than anything. Before the transition, we had finally reached the point in the semester where each class feels like its own little family. Online classes did not take that away, but it was not the same feeling.”

Caitlyn’s favorite place on campus is Drinko Library, as it is a good place to study or relax. She looks forward to returning to campus this fall and experiencing face-to-face classes.



Fun Facts

Name: Caitlyn Epperheart

Class of 2022

Hometown: Logan, West Virginia

Major: English Education (5-Adult)

Favorite color: Royal Blue, but Kelly Green is a close second!

Textbooks or eBooks: Textbooks 100%. I've always retained information better from printed text.

Favorite place in Huntington: Pullman Square because there is a little bit of everything there.

Favorite thing about Huntington: Marshall's campus is my favorite thing about Huntington. I've always felt happy, comfortable and safe.

"Unfortunately, two of my classes have already been moved online, so I will not be spending as much time on campus as I would like, but I am thankful for the measures the university is taking to keep our students, faculty and staff safe."

With the hope of making new friends, enjoying her college experience and, of course, to graduate, Caitlyn is thankful for the support of her husband, family and friends, as well as the financial support of her scholarship.

"Marshall's alumni have shaped the university into what it is today. The donations have helped other students succeed, as well as making Marshall's campus grow larger and better."