

“My scholarships are why I can go to Marshall University,” said Sydney Long of Liberty Township, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati.

“I am an out-of-state student, so the costs to be here are even more expensive. I come from a middle-class family with six kids, so I really wouldn’t have had anything close to this opportunity to come to Marshall if it weren’t for my scholarships,” she said.

“When I found out that I had received a scholarship, I was overwhelmed to think someone thought I was special enough to receive their help and donations,” said Sydney, a recipient of both the Donald L. Van Horn Scholarship and the Jane Hobson Memorial Scholarship. “I would like to thank my scholarship donors and show my pure gratitude for the opportunities they have given me by donating to help students get an education. They are not only giving me a future, but a degree so that I can go on to give other kids a brilliant future, as well.”

Majoring in music education, Sydney’s primary instrument is her voice. She is a first-time freshman, expects to graduate in 2023 and looks forward to learning how to become a better vocalist and how to educate kids in a fun and positive way. Her favorite place on campus is Smith Music Hall, particularly the benches outside the entrance. Sydney enjoys the environment, studying in a building specific to her major, the freedom of what she will do on campus and the family she joined when she arrived on campus.

“I chose to attend Marshall because their music faculty and programs are amazing, and they are a good distance away from where I live, so it’s just far enough that I can experience life on my own. I also decided on Marshall because they had the best environment I experienced on any college campus that I had visited,” she explained.

Sydney is looking to join a service organization because she enjoys helping the community in any way. Her hope for her time at Marshall is that she creates lasting relationships and a strong foundation for her career.



Fun Facts

Name: Sydney Long

Class of 2023

Hometown: Liberty Township, Ohio

Major: Music Education

Favorite color: Seafoam green and mint green

Textbooks or eBooks: I like studying with hard copies because they are easier for me to visually understand, but I would much rather pay the price of an eBook to a textbook.

Favorite thing about Huntington: I am obsessed with the jazz scene in Huntington because I love performing arts and listening to jazz artists.

“I want to be a friend, a confidant and a teacher. One that makes kids laugh while teaching them how to express themselves through music, and in life. My teachers throughout the years inspired me and got me where I am today, along with my family. I want to do that for other kids. I want to be someone who helps a kid understand the gifts and talents they bring to the table. I want to be the person who helps them explore their potential. I want to be the teacher that some kid looks back on and thinks, wow, they really helped me become who I want to be,” Sydney said.

Her greatest challenge as a college student has been missing her family, as they are three hours away, and time management, which she is pursuing with a written schedule. She credits her mother and grandmother as her biggest fans, as they have provided encouragement that built her confidence in pursuing a music education degree. “Both of these amazing women have encouraged me to not let my gifts go to waste and to use them to learn and help others.”

Sydney is thankful for the teachers, friends and family, and now Marshall alumni who cheer her on.

“There are thousands of stories just like mine of people who just needed that extra help to get them to a place financially where they can pursue their dreams. Alumni should recognize these people and their stories by paying their gratitude back to the younger generations that come after them.”