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WA-931

Clover Park High School

“How JROTC has prepared me to be a better citizen of the United States of America.”

JROTC to some is just a course, an elective that helps them gather credits for graduation. But, to me, JROTC is a way of life. I have learned to use the standards given to me and apply them to my everyday life. JROTC has helped me better understand what it means to be someone in the real world and what it takes to be someone in the real world. I could not have truly experienced high school to the best of my capabilities without the core values that have been emphasized to me by my instructors, Lt. Colonel Roberts and Senior Master Sergeant Arroyo. These two outstanding people have shown me what it means to be not just a great student, but an outstanding scholar and an exemplary citizen who characterizes his image through hard work, discipline, and determination. One of my big dreams in life is to become a cyber-defense engineer and work within the military, preferably the Air Force, because that is the JROTC branch of service I am in currently within my high school. This dream has become brighter and grown ever since I enrolled in JROTC. I continue to learn more and more about what life after high school looks like and what will be expected of me. I am confident as I approach this line between being a high school teenager, and a college freshman who is entering the real world. JROTC has given me the courage and determination to be on that other side of the line without fear of the unknown or the unforeseen. I can look up from my current state of life within poverty and low expectations and see a bright future ahead of me. I can ignore all those demeaning expectations of failure that have been thrown at me time after time. I will fulfill my vision of

success. I have seen myself grow from a self-conscious cadet airman first class, who joined JROTC in order to wear a uniform into a confident, self-motivated, and ambitious Vice Group commander, who seeks to better himself through leadership and teamwork not just with my fellow classmates, but also within my school. I have worked hard to get closer to my dream of becoming a cyber-defense engineer to not just have a better future, but to help improve and give back to my country for all that it has given to me and helped me so much through my short lifetime. I value and appreciate all the sacrifices that were made by previous generations and in turn, strive to create a better nation for the generations to come. I honor my role within JROTC, and value greatly being able to wear an Air Force uniform because I know that blood, sweat, and tears are not the only things that have been given up in order for me to wear that uniform. I now realize that many sacrifices were made and lives were given up by those who wanted nothing more than freedom and liberty for all future generations to live a better life than they did. I remember their accomplishments through my earned ribbons, I see the shadow of their names within my name tag, and I feel profoundly honored to wear my uniform. JROTC has given me the tools and mindset to be someone in the world who makes a difference and I will do everything that I can to not only exceed the standards set for me, but also the standards that I have set for myself.

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