



Chloe Leonard, Delta Zeta Sorority, Southern Illinois University

I have faced numerous challenges in my life... succeeded in many, but also defeated in some. Although we cannot choose the circumstances we are presented, we have the ability to maintain a positive attitude throughout the situation. When applying to Southern Illinois University, I was top of my class, leader of every club imaginable, a respected athlete, an active volunteer, and a hardworking student. But despite my achievements and notable attributes, I was denied the opportunity to interview for the Chancellor's Scholarship, a full-ride academic scholarship at Southern Illinois, due to falling one point short on my ACT. Needless to say, I was devastated. I could not believe my that my intelligence was being measured by the numerical results of a standardized test. I second guessed my abilities, discredited my accomplishments, and let this one defeat define who I was. But now I no longer accept that my competence be quantitatively construed, as my potential should be reflected in more than a mere test score. I am not a just a number.

I am a servant leader. I am dedicated to investing myself in the understand, growth, and success of others. I esteem myself as a persuasive visionary that is humble, self-reflective, and a life-long learner. My involvement has allowed me to become deeply engaged in things that are of high importance and to instill positive change in those around me. In the duration of my collegiate career, I have held a plethora of leadership positions in the respective organizations I have partaken. In my sorority alone, I have served as Panhellenic Delegate, Secretary, and Vice President of Membership. It is by these offices that I have learned the true benefit of my involvement and how to better others through my activity.

I am a contributor to my community. I go beyond participation, engaging deeply in my community by making meaningful contributions that leave a positive impact. As a member of Delta Zeta, I have been exposed to an abundance of opportunities to serve others. From stocking shelves at our local food banks, to fundraising for the hearing impaired, and raising awareness for domestic and sexual abuse, my dedication to serve has been profound.

I am a curious intellect. I hunger for opportunities of intellectual discourse, investigating complexities, and multiple perspectives. I have maintained high grades and remained on the Dean's list throughout college, and thus fostered the importance of academic achievement. I also strive to develop and support the intellectual growth of others. I devote my time to activities that hold great significance in my life and in those that I can make a notable impact, such as tutoring fellow students. Knowing that I can aid in the facilitation of self-actualization of others, then witnessing their personal development, is a great sense of gratification.

I am a creative thinker and gifted communicator. I have been said to make novel connections, share unique insights, and display innovative creative thinking. Often the paths I take to reach my goals are unconventional but are ultimately rewarding. Along with strong written and verbal capabilities, I am an effective communicator with a sincere passion for others. My ability to connect with individuals enables me to foster many deep-rooted relationships with people of all backgrounds.

Although I was not awarded the Chancellor's Scholarship or thought to be of the top promising SIU students, I have achieved great things during my time at this institution. I anticipate the boundless opportunities that await me not only at Southern Illinois but throughout life. I am not just a number. I am Chloe Leonard.

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