



## Brandi Rafferty – My Philosophy of Life

I am a junior at Alice Lloyd College majoring in elementary education. As do all students here, I participate in the College's Student Work Program. Currently, I am an assistant in the Institutional Advancement Office where I make thank-you calls to donors, do filing, answer the phone, and perform other general secretarial duties.

I was raised with the understanding that college is extremely important in today's society. Neither of my parents went to college, and my father dropped out of high school during his freshman year. My parents have always had to work extremely hard for everything they received in life, and so have I. However, I do not consider this a disadvantage on my part, but instead, an advantage. I learned at a young age that I have to work for what I receive, and therefore, I appreciate things I get.

When I first enrolled in college, I knew that it was going to be a challenging, yet rewarding, task. I was not only signing up for a higher education, but was also taking on the task of paying my way through college. I receive financial assistance, but I also work in the College's Student Work Program and at a part-time job outside of school. This was not a choice for me if I wanted to continue my education. I lost my father to cancer during my junior year of high school, and my family has struggled financially ever since. My mother is not able to pay my college expenses. However, she helps me in every way she possibly can.

My philosophy in life would have to be, "Do not give up, because the ending rewards outweigh the challenges." I have always dreamed of one day becoming an educator. Even as a little girl, from as far back as I can remember, I would set up my dolls and teach them from the depths of my soul. I believe in my heart that my true purpose in life is to one day teach a classroom full of students, and I am willing to undergo any challenges or obstacles that try and stand in my way.

My parents always encouraged me to follow my dreams and never settle for less. I have a strong desire to teach, and I will never be truly happy unless I make that dream come true. I am blessed in many ways. I have the emotional support from my family, and the College has provided me with scholarship assistance from donors, but, most importantly, I have the self-determination to succeed, and I am willing to work as hard as I have to in order to complete college and one day become a certified teacher.

I will always try and be the best I can be and do the best I can do. I am not perfect, but I strive for perfection every day. At the end of the day, I pray that God will continue blessing and helping me, because I know that through Him all things are possible.