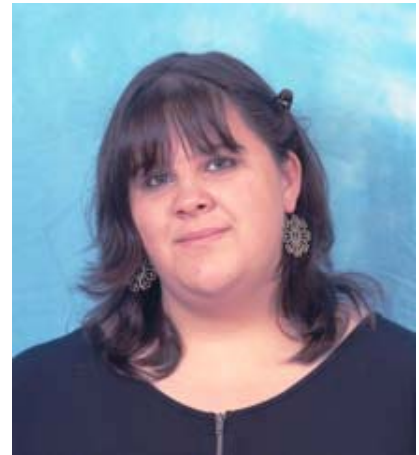


Christina Cadwallader

A trip into Appalachia, A Life-Changing Move

My name is Christina Cadwallader, and I am majoring in social science at Alice Lloyd College. Where am I from? When I was nineteen I had lived in four different states and eighteen homes throughout my lifetime. For me a *hometown* is not something I can imagine, but I can tell you where my parents currently live, and that is in Lynchburg, Ohio, just across the Ohio River from Kentucky.



I do not really feel like I *chose* to go to Alice Lloyd College, it was more like Alice Lloyd College chose me. When I was twenty, I had just graduated from the phlebotomy program at the local community college, but I still wanted to have a bachelor's degree. I applied to Ohio State University and was accepted. However, about a week before I was supposed to leave for college, we got the financial aid papers back, stating that I could not go unless I paid in full or I took out a loan. I didn't have the money, and neither did my parents. And, I did not want to go into debt. Realizing that I would not be able to go, I cried for two days.

My mother suggested that I look for something more affordable, so we sat down and searched Google for ***work-study colleges***. We came up with a list of the ***best education at the lowest cost*** and we saw Alice Lloyd College, and another low cost college in Montana. My mother said I was not going to go so far away as Montana, so we called Alice Lloyd College and set up a visit. We had to request the guest house because our home in Ohio is about a five-hour drive from Pippa Passes, and we would not have been able to make it back in the same day.

While we were trying to get to the College, we were a bit scared. We had never been this far into the mountains, and it was my mother, my grandmother, my six-year-old sister and myself. Three women and a small child were driving on the back roads of Kentucky to get to a college, and at that point we were just praying that it really existed. We drove through several little communities, but mostly mile after mile of steep, winding roads. My mother looked at me and said, ***"Where are we taking you?"*** She was so concerned that she became unsure about allowing me to live in a place like this for nine months out of the year.

By the time we arrived on campus, it was dark and we could not see much at all. We found a campus security officer who escorted us to the

guest house. We had not eaten dinner, and we were starving, so we asked him if there was anywhere we could get food. He directed us to Dairy Queen, which was about 5 miles away and across a mountain. When the sun came up the next morning, we saw all the students (it was the first day of classes for the fall semester). It was a beautiful place. Everyone was so nice. We took a tour of the campus, saw the classrooms and learned about the founder, Alice Lloyd. I immediately felt like I wanted to be here. I knew that this place would help me set goals and reach them! So, this is why I feel that Alice Lloyd College found me.

Once I was enrolled at ALC, **I not only took classes, I was assigned a job in the Student Work Program.** My main job is in the Development Office where funds are raised to help students like me attend here. I have also worked during summer months stripping and waxing floors in classrooms and other campus buildings, as well as planting flowers on the grounds when needed.

Working for my education has helped me become a better person. Not only has it given me the skills I need to be a good employee, it has shown me that I can be successful in the work force. I am now more able to talk to the people I work with and am not as reserved as I once was. In the work program, I have learned general office procedures, including how to work on different computer programs, and these skills translate into experience that I can put on my resume. Also, I have been able to work up to the position of supervisor of a crew of 10 students.

This is a good school and the faculty and staff will help students any way they can, but they are not going to just hand over the diploma. **Students have to earn their way and prove themselves worthy to hold a diploma from Alice Lloyd College.** A lot is expected of us in our classes and in our social lives. This College expects us to conduct ourselves a certain way, and if a student wants to have an education from this college, he or she will have to abide by the rules. Not everyone is going to agree with the requirements for class attendance, appropriate dress, and good moral conduct, but those who cannot adapt to the rules should find another college.

One of my decisions throughout my college career has been to not take out any loans, because I do not want to have the burden of paying back loans looming over me as soon as I start my career. **Alice Lloyd College has made it possible for me to receive a four-year degree without going into debt.** I thank God every day for that blessing.