



Trista Hibbitts

Preparing to Lead!

My three years at Alice Lloyd College have been some of the best times of my life, and I cannot fully express my gratitude towards friends of the College for making those moments happen. Without ALC, I truly do not believe that I would have been able to stay in college very long. I am from the small town of Hyden, Kentucky, in Leslie County, which is about an hour's drive from the Alice Lloyd campus. My parents worked very hard to teach me how to succeed in life, but they also had to work hard themselves to support our little family.

When the time for thinking about college came around, I was determined to get away from my tiny town and out from under my parents eyes. I wanted to go off and have the ultimate college experience without ever thinking about the financial burden it may have placed on my parents. Throughout my junior and senior year of high school, this was the attitude that I maintained. I was leaving and not sure I would look back, but life had other plans for me. The night before I was to attend the graduation of the Leslie County High School Class of 2008, my grandmother called and said that she had fallen and needed to be taken to the hospital. That night was the longest night of my life and made me realize that life was much too short to spend it away from those that I love the most. It turned out that my grandmother had shattered her elbow trying to catch herself when she fell and would need surgery. After having the surgery and going through physical therapy, my grandmother then moved in with me and my parents. I spent most of my senior year searching for a college that I could go to that was close to home. Gone were the days of trying to run away from my hometown, now I was on a mission to try to find a way to stay.

By December, I had pretty much decided that I would attend a local college branch where I had already taken a class through my high school, when a good friend recommended that I take a visit to Alice Lloyd College. She began to name the many opportunities that Alice Lloyd offered, including it being close to home, and I was pretty much sold. In January, my best friend and I, along with our parents, came to campus for a campus visit. The moment I pulled on campus, I could feel that this place was special. The work-study student in the Admissions Office gave us a tour, and by the time the tour was over, my mind was made up. I was attending Alice Lloyd College, and there was no stopping me.

I am majoring in Elementary Education with an emphasis in English. I truly enjoy working with kids and cannot wait to shape the lives of the future leaders of this country. My work-study jobs have definitely helped prepare me for my role in the classroom. My first job on campus was in the Alice Lloyd College/June Buchanan daycare and preschool. It was here that I truly knew that I was majoring in the right area. I loved working with the children there. I helped them with writing their letters and numbers, read them their favorite stories, and played fun games with them. When the director of the daycare would have to step out for a minute, I would sometimes have to manage the classroom which gave me invaluable experience for when I'm in my own classroom. After a year in the daycare, I was transferred to the Admissions Office where I have dealt with confidentiality, parents, teachers, and potential students. This has provided me with the opportunity to see how the director of admissions works with different kinds of parents. I can use her example in my classroom when having parent/teacher conferences.

Alice Lloyd College has truly provided me with so many opportunities to succeed in a time of economic uncertainty. I have yet to take out a student loan, thanks to the Appalachian Leaders Scholarship. The jobs that I have held here have prepared me for my future in the classroom. I know that when I graduate, I will have an excellent chance of getting a job at least 6 months after graduation. I do not think I could have chosen a better college to attend. It is close to home, a friendly environment, and an amazing educational facility. Everywhere you turn, there is an opportunity to succeed here at Alice Lloyd College, and I thank you for being a part of that.