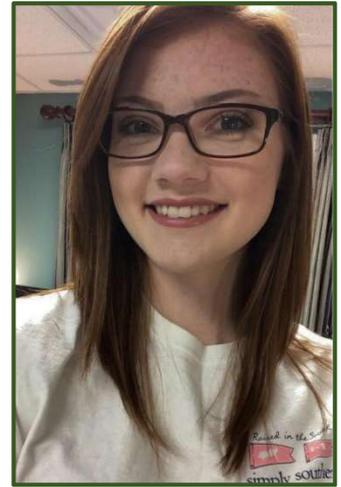


Emily

Business and Accounting Major From Selling Vegetables to CPA



My name is Emily, and I am a senior at Alice Lloyd College. My major is accounting and business administration. I plan to attend graduate school to obtain a masters in accounting, and eventually become a CPA.

I grew up in a small town that has a church, a gas station, and a few small houses. Although my hometown of Dryden in Lee County, Virginia, doesn't have much to offer, I am grateful to have been able to live there, where I grew up in a humble, Christian home. I am so blessed to have grown up the way I did. When I was young, my mom did not have a job and my step-father was only making about \$100 a week. So, when he passed away, we had nothing. Going through those harsh times gave me an even greater desire to do something different with my life so my future family does not have to know that struggle.

Working hard comes natural to me, because as a child, it was my job to sell what extra food we had left over from our garden. People were always leery about buying from such a young child, but I would work very hard to make money for our struggling family. At the age of six, I helped till our garden and plant vegetables. Almost everything that we ate came from our garden, which consumed most of our land. We would save what we could to sell to people in the community, so we could have money to pay bills and keep the garden going. I would take a piece of cardboard that I found with the words 'Veggies for Sale' written on it, and stand at the end of our driveway, and someone would stop to buy the produce. I always managed to sell what I had to make the money that was needed for our family. Another thing I learned about hard work is the value of money. I was never allowed to keep a single dollar I made, but I knew that I would have food on the table and a place to sleep because of the money that I raised to help my mother and step-father. I had burdens on my shoulders as a child that I shouldn't have had to bear. Although I am grateful that I know the value of a dollar and how to work hard, I want my children to have a more comfortable childhood while learning those things, as well.

My decision to come to Alice Lloyd College was not taken lightly and was based solely on what my heart was telling me; what God was telling me. Moving two hours from home to an unfamiliar place where I did not know anyone was not in my plan. During my first week here, I remember feeling very

lonely to the point where I would cry and pray to God to help me get over feeling homesick. One night, I could feel Him telling me to read His word; so, that is exactly what I did. I ended up reading "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5. It was then I realized I have never been alone, and I will never be alone. God led me to Alice Lloyd College, and He will lead me through. I am currently in more challenging business classes, and I know that without God's guidance, I would not make it. I have always been taught that there is not a prayer too small or too big for God, and it is true. Even if it is just calming my nerves before a big test, He is there to help. College has been tough, but I have a Heavenly Father who has stuck by my side through the whole process.

When I enrolled at the College, I struggled with my classes, and I was very homesick. I did not have the best grades starting off, but I worked really hard and raised them drastically. Because of my hard work, I earned the Barbara Thomas Most Improved Student Scholarship Award during my sophomore year, the Whitfield Cobb Award for Statistics and the Thelmarie M. Thornsberry award my junior year. My homesickness went away, I started playing tennis, and I got involved in Revive Student Ministries. Since then, I have made the Dean's List four times and the President's List twice. I owe my achievements to the faculty and staff of Alice Lloyd College, and most importantly, to donors who support the College.

I love Alice Lloyd College because of the small size, friendly environment, and the Appalachian Leaders Scholarship. I was able to go to college because of the tuition guarantee scholarship and the Student Work Program. I worked in the Admissions Office for two and half years, where I was promoted to student supervisor. Working in the Admissions Office gave me the opportunity to make so many friends and meet some incredible people. I have spent the rest of my time as a student supervisor over the Commodore Slone Building. Supervising this building has improved my leadership skills as well as make me feel confident as a leader. Not only did work study allow me to afford to go to college, but it also helped put spending money in my pocket. I work 20 hours a week during the semester and 40 hours a week during the summer, along with having a second job off campus.

Yes, this magnificent place offers an incredible education and valuable work experience, but there are also lots of entertaining things to get involved in. I am a member of Phi Beta Lambda, which offers the opportunity for community service. One specific thing that PBL does is provide food to elementary students every other weekend. There truly isn't a better way to spend your free time than to give back and serve your community. I am now in the Leadership Program, too, which will most certainly help me obtain jobs as well as get into graduate school. Once again, I give thanks to Alice Lloyd College and the donors who support my education. I am grateful, for without all of this, my plans would still be just a dream.

