

None of what I have since accomplished would have been possible without the School for Language and Communication Development (SLCD). Although, my time outside SLCD has shot past the fifteen-year mark, my debt to that school will never cease.

I've had a disability since before I was even born. Between having a cerebral blood clot in utero to grand mal seizures due to epilepsy, I've had to overcome significant hurdles. In order to control the Epilepsy I will be on medication for life. Also, I have dysgraphia. As a result I have relied on note takers for most of my school years. Despite working on my handwriting for years, it is still barely legible. Finally I had a mild learning disability. As a further result, I have received special education services starting at SLCD and continuing through grade 12.

In spite of these challenges I have excelled. In fact, I plan to teach social studies and special education in order to challenge and inspire those coming up after me to fulfill their potential. Because of my disabilities, I will adapt my style of teaching in order to compensate for them. For example, I will rely extensively on the computer or dittos in order to ensure students get the notes necessary with each lesson. Fortunately, I have an excellent memory so I will be able to think quickly enough on my feet to adapt a lesson if need be. Since the current emphasis in educational practice is turning away from the traditional 'chalk and talk' method, this will be a boon instead of a problem in affecting my future. My career goal and dedication to history may not have sparked until seventh grade, but SLCD provided the flint. Indeed, my goal has never wavered since I first got

interested in history, ten years ago, and is now in sight. What inspires me is not only my past successes, but also the knowledge that, until recently I would have never been considered teacher material.

I am very appreciative for the strong support I received at SLCD that has allowed me to make such good progress toward my goal of becoming a social studies teacher.