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Setting the Example

The prospect of returning to school to earn an MBA had been appealing to me since I graduated from college about 15 years ago. Unfortunately life kept getting in the way. So, when making the decision to return to school and earn an MBA from Rice University, the deciding factor was my three daughters. As a single father of three young girls, I wanted to set an example for them in that you can turn a negative life experience into a positive one. I want them to remember once they are more mature that you can pursue a goal no matter what place you are in life. Hopefully my daughters will see the time and effort that I put into the degree payoff when they watch me walk across the stage during the graduation ceremony and project the entire experience to goals and dreams they might have in the future.

I believe that earning an MBA will provide me the framework that will enable me to understand and direct how a business operates from a financial perspective, and I expect that the experience will increase my level of responsibility over time at Marathon. My goal during and post degree has been to leverage the knowledge I'm learning and relationships I'm building with my classmates in such a way that I can apply new concepts and best practices that will help Marathon perform better over the long-term.

After graduating from Glenda Dawson High School, I plan to pursue a double major in kinesiology and biochemistry at Prairie View A&M University. Later, I would like to complete the Orthotist program at Texas A&M College Station to carry on the Aggie tradition set by my father and great-grandfather and help children with disabilities.

The moment in my life that influenced me most is my disability, cerebral palsy. Luckily, my condition did not impair my cognitive skills; unfortunately, the right side of my body, specifically my fine motor skills, was scathed. To combat the hindrances of my disability, my father began training me in baseball, as well as weight lifting, which has become my passion. I wanted to learn about limits of the human body, not only to gain muscle but also to cope cerebral palsy.

A few years ago, I realized how fortunate I am to function through my “limitations” while attending summer camp. I quote limitations because my condition only limits my mind. Camp Buckaroo is a camp for disabled children between the ages of eight to fifteen. While at camp I met two brothers, Matt and Nick, who also had cerebral palsy. Both guys had impaired motor skills and wore hearing aids but did not have any cognitive issues. Matt and Nick’s love of life and each other was amazing. They were not concerned with their limitations; they viewed themselves as equals with each other and everyone else. I loved their spirit. Buckaroo made me realize that I was fortunate and should use my challenges to help others. One day I will be an Orthotist making orthopedic braces like those that I have worn and telling children that they can aspire to whatever they want to be. If I can help one person achieve their dreams, I know my difficult road will have been worth it. I look forward to starting my next chapter and thank you for the opportunity to compete for a college scholarship.