

Grant Rivera

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Greeley, CO 80634
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EDUCATION

Greeley Central High School: Grades 9-12
Graduating: May, 2018
GPA: 3.5
ACT: N/A SAT: 1070
Language: English
Certifications: Certified in CPR, First Aid/AED
Major: Environmental Engineering
College: Colorado State University - Fort Collins, Fall of 2018
Rotary Area of Focus: Water and Sanitation

HONOR AND AWARDS

- AVID (Advanced Via Individual Determination) Award of Distinction, 2014 - 2017
- AVID (Advanced Via Individual Determination) Award of Recognition, 2017
- Award of excellence, January 20th, 2018

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

- **Green Cats**, An eco-friendly environmental club that involves community service and working to better our school and environment, August, 2016 - present
- **Member, The Greeley Dream Team**, Interact with advisors and other students who are planning to attend a four year university, December, 2013 - present
- **AVID, (Advanced Via Individual Determination)**, December, 2013 - present

ACTIVITIES

- **Teen's Night Out**, Chaperone and interact with middle-school children, August, 2016 - present
- **T-Ball Assistant**, Instruct children ages four to seven on improving their batting/catching skills, and the importance of good sportsmanship, Summer, 2017
- **RESIST**, Mentor a group of five 5th graders to encourage them to identify unsafe surroundings, resist peer pressure, and avoid bad life decisions, July, 2017 - present

- **Greeley Sister City Exchange Program**, one of nine high school representatives who traveled to Moriya, Japan to represent the City of Greeley, June of 2017
- **Corn Shucking**, Shuck ears of corn at District 6 Nutritional Building which will be prepared for school lunch, September 16th, 2016
- **Greeley Central Freshmen Dance**, set-up/tear down, Chaperone freshmen students during the annual freshmen dance, August 26th, 2016

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

- UNC Air Quality Symposium Conference, March 8th, 2017
- AVID Leadership Conference, February 2017
- AVID Leadership Conference, March 2016

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

- Greeley Family Funplex, Customer Service Representative, August, 2014 - present
- Greeley Recreation Center, Customer Service Representative, May, 2014 - present
- Greeley Recreation Center, Childcare Provider, May, 2014 - present

SKILLS AND SPECIAL TRAINING

- First Aid and CPR Certified, August, 2016
- Proficient with Microsoft Word, Access and Excel
- Excellent Communication skills
- Excellent cash handling and payment processing

REFERENCES

Hofstetter, Caitlin, Family Funplex Supervisor

Greeley Family Funplex, 1501 65th Ave, Greeley, CO 80634

Phone: 970-350-9401 Email: caitlin.hofstetter@greeleygov.com

Zamora, Lorene, Greeley Rec Center Supervisor

Greeley Recreation Center, 651 10th Ave, Greeley CO 80631

Phone: 970-350-9400 Email: lorene.zamora@greeleygov.com

McGee, Lisa, Teacher at Greeley Central High School

Greeley Central High School, 1515 14th Ave. Greeley, Co

Phone: (970)348-5134 Email: lmcgee@greeleyschools.org

2310 West A Street: Vandalized fences, locked doors, and suspicious strangers who were often too close for comfort. This was the neighborhood I called home. Growing up in a neighborhood where break-ins and vandalism were more common than mosquitoes on a summer night, you begin to learn that strangers are sometimes more than just strangers, and letting your guard down is equivalent to leaving your front door wide open. I was eight years old when our house was broken into for the first time. I had just arrived home from school when I approached my front door and found it wide open. It was when I took my first step through the door I realized the reality of what had just happened.

The structure I just entered was not my home; my home was occupied by belongings that took years of hard work to acquire. Instead, I entered an empty space stripped of all character, including our Christmas tree that was bare of the brightly wrapped packages that surrounded its base earlier that morning. Every piece of my mother's jewelry, including her wedding ring and Grandmother's pearl necklace, were taken to be sold to the highest bidder. Not only did we lose every valuable possession we owned, but also precious memories and our sense of security that no amount of money could replace. Christmas was an especially hard time for my parents as you could imagine, there was no way they could afford to replace the presents we had just lost. The next six months seemed to last a lifetime. Every time I entered my home, I was instantly reminded of what had happened by the empty space that our television once occupied, or the lack of our computer to work on homework.

Fast forward nine months later, life was back to normal, and although the last few months had been a rough experience for everyone in my family, the past was finally behind us, or so I thought. I entered my neighborhood after the short walk from the bus stop when I first saw the display of flashing red and blue lights, and my frantic mother and older sister speaking with a police officer. I felt my stomach jump to my throat and my heart stop. Once again, my house had been robbed by masked men while my sister was home. Thankfully, my sister had been unharmed by the two men, however everything my parents had worked so hard to finally replace, had vanished in a matter of minutes. One of the worst experiences in my life that I believed was finally over, was long from being finished.

Living through these experiences have definitely created a huge impact on my life. These experiences have made me realize the truth; not all people share the same morals or values as myself. Because of our different backgrounds, many of us are persuaded to live different lives and take different paths. What began as a negative moment in my life, has provided me with the opportunity to take determination and turn a negative into a positive. It was this realization that has given me the determination to no longer be a victim of a child from a harsh neighborhood or letting my background define my future. Instead, I would take this determination and use it to create a better future for myself by graduating from high school and becoming the first member in my family to attend college.

Using this determination, I have been able to accomplish many of the goals I have set my mind to. In June of 2017, I was selected to be one of nine students in the City of Greeley to be a representative in Greeley's Sister City Moriya, Japan. To be selected as a representative, I had to first submit two essays and be interviewed among five members of the Greeley community. Because of my determination and desire to succeed, I was able to accomplish my goal and was selected to take a trip of a lifetime across the Pacific .

Looking back at my life experiences and the decisions I have made, I took the Four-way Test into consideration and asked myself how I could have used this to my advantage. It was while writing this essay that I realized that throughout my life I have always used these same values to coordinate my decisions. Every person holds a different truth to themselves while making life

decisions, I can say mine is based solely off my determination to succeed. After understanding my truth, the following questions I needed to ask myself became clear. If you are using good values such as determination to guide your truth, then your decisions will always be fair to those who are concerned because your decisions are most likely to have a positive impact on your life, and therefore theirs. Building relationships based off the core of your truth will evolve your surroundings and atmosphere of others who follow the same values, creating healthy and life changing relationships. By living up to my truth and expectations, I will not only better myself, but others as well by becoming a positive role model for others who are still searching for their truth and incorporating it to their life decisions.