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Honors Program Portfolio
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Honors Classes: Exploring Humanities, Public Speaking
British Literature to Romanticism, World Literature From 1650

Section I: Demonstrating Engagement, Cultivating Curiosity, and Exploring new Perspectives

One is not always presented with the opportunity to enrich their understanding of the world. Such privilege has not only allowed me to understand more of this world; in addition, the Honors Program has allowed me to learn more about the world within myself. Being able to surround oneself with diverse points of view is the equivalent of traveling around the world without having to go far. I am more than grateful to have been able to take several Honors classes. The depth of the engagement during class between professors and students in an Honors



course is what cultivates, community, diversity, and curiosity. Taking the courses themselves have allowed me to feel as if I truly am part of a community. Even though each student is taking different classes and professors, we are all linked by this longing for knowledge. Nothing is as inspiring as a classroom of students trying to understand the world together while they are living their own lives apart. We are then able to come together and share our truths, opinions, and aspirations. Doing so, we instill in each other the feeling of curiosity. The Honors Program has helped me in encouraging myself to speak up and speak out about my ideas, opinions, and beliefs. Before the Honors Program, it felt as if my voice had been inexistent. Now, I am able to have my voice be

heard and believe in what it may have to present.

After obtaining this way of feeling about my voice, I decided to get out of my comfort zone and audition for the theatre company known as the LatinX Theater Project. Becoming an ensemble member has allowed me to demonstrate how vital culture and art are in our lives. Although we all the same roots as artists and come from Latin descent, all of us bring different perspectives and talents to the table. Every rehearsal is unique from the last. In each meeting, we



find a way to work together for one common goal. To bring culture and art together in diverse ways that will bring people of all kinds together as well. Joining the ensemble has allowed me to experience two of the most important goals in my life, which are giving me the ability to grow as an artist, specifically a writer and travel while doing so. We had the opportunity to travel to Chicago this fall and immerse ourselves in museums, plays, and our growth as an ensemble. If it had not been for the way the Honors Program has allowed me to believe

in myself, it would have been unlikely for me to have auditioned. The class that had a significant

impact on helping me improve my writing was English Comp II. Although my English Comp II class was not an honors course, I was truly fortunate to have Sabrina Chesne as my professor. It was then where I began to realize the potential of my writing. The assignments that were given were not typical and expected ones. Often, professor Chesne would encourage us to think beyond what the assignment was asking from us. Not only should we fulfill what is required and not only do what is asked but reflect on the purpose of the assignment and what we can take from it for ourselves overall. Professors like Sabrina Chesne are few, which is why I am grateful to have been taught by her. Without a doubt, she has inspired me to look beyond the lines and limitations that kept me from growing as a writer. I tend to reflect on time and feel taken away over everything the Program has done for me. I am thankful for the way World Literature with professor Chesne has expanded my knowledge and understanding of different kinds of literature from different cultures. Not only was I able to learn about literature, but how culture affects the way writers write. A regular class consisted of discussing the potential motives of the authors, the significance of the piece itself, and how we can apply it to our own lives. The Honors Program instilled the belief to go after my goals in me. I found the courage to take steps I did not know I had within me. I feel confident and aware in terms of my potential. I can demonstrate what happens after you allow yourself to get out of your comfort zone and become comfortable with “thinking outside the box.” Although I have not offered much to the Honors Program, I will remain eternally grateful for everything the Honors Program has provided me.

Section II: How did Honors Prepare me for the Continuation of my Education

The Honors program helped me decide what I wanted to pursue beyond an associate degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences. Also, it has helped prepare me for new obstacles that may follow pursuing a more profound education at a university. I felt reassured about my choice of obtaining an English major after taking British Literature and World Literature. I was able to expand my interest and understanding of them both. In the same way that literature has different styles, tones, and purposes, our own lives do so as well. Without a doubt, all three for me will change as I transfer to a university. The style that I live my life in will change as I come across the different responsibilities and experiences that will arise from this transfer. After writing for various Honors classes, I have learned to adjust and be okay with the way my tone must adapt for different courses. I must be able to continue doing this as I expand my education. I consider this ability to change tones as a hard skill. A soft skill I have developed is being purposeful in my communication skills. This skill has helped me be and feel engaged in my classes. Without a doubt, the Honors Program has gifted me with a beneficial amount of preparation for my life as a student and beyond.

Section III: Memorable Experience as an Honors Member

One experience that I have had as a member that I would like to share is the first time I was able to experience what an honors course meant. Until the second Spring semester, I was at NWACC; I decided to sign up for honor courses. The first class I chose to take was Exploring Humanities with Professor Cindy King. This class, unlike my other course's discussion, was encouraged continuously. Mrs. King often encouraged us to share our ideas and viewpoints about the humanities. Several times we would visit museums as a class and be inspired by art. One of the more memorable trips was when we went to the 21c Museum Hotel in Bentonville.

Inspired by its exhibition at the time, “The Future is Female,” I wrote a paper over two projects by the artist Zoë Buckman. Having readers think outside the box is not a simple task. Though it is not always an easy thing to achieve, when one does achieve this, it has a profound effect on your life.

Section IV: A Piece of Advice for new Honors Students

Lastly, I would highly advise and encourage all new members to believe in what you have to say. The beauty of an honors course is that it instills curiosity and encourages students to express themselves regardless of how big or small the input may appear to be. Seize the opportunity to share your ideas even if they seem too different from the other ones being said. At times it may seem difficult, yet you are in the Honors Program for a reason. I am more than thankful for the support from my peers and professors to have found mine.