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Honor Program

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Honors Program Portfolio

Honestly, I never thought I would ever enjoy my time at NWACC. In my head, before starting school, I told myself that I just needed to start so I can finish as quickly as possible. That was all before I started in the Honors Program. It completely altered the way I handled school and participated at school. I have taken four different honors classes over my three semesters at NWACC. The four classes included Honors Astronomy, Honors World Civilizations with food, Honors American National Government, and Honors Philosophy. All of these classes helped shape me into the person I have become today, and I will forever be grateful for the time I have spent in the program.

I took my first honors class by accident funnily enough. I feel like this happens a lot with a lot of students at NWACC. At least

that's what I have seen. My first honors class I took was Astronomy with Dr. Auld. This was probably one of my favorite classes I had taken my first semester at NWACC. There were a lot of students in the class that were a part of the program and we all soon started talking. I felt at ease in the class and Dr. Auld did a fantastic job at making everyone in the class feel at ease and comfortable. There was a lot expected of me while I took the class. I felt as though I belonged and mattered while in the class. Everyone that was already in the honors program talked to me



and we soon became friends. That is when I was introduced to the honors program at NWACC. I went ahead and joined after my first semester at school and started the spring semester a part of the program officially. Throughout my time in Dr. Auld's class, we did a service-learning project where we sorted through thousands of solar glasses that we would then donate to people who were going to be able to see the eclipse. I do not think that the class was harder because of being an honors class. I do not think that was the point. I feel that the class was powered mostly through class discussions and less lecture. It was a very interesting dynamic that I had never experienced before. Another class that was a lot like this was my World Civilizations class with food.

I had taken the first half of the class my first semester at NWACC with Dr. Gallo. She soon became one of my favorite teachers of my college career. I took the regular class the first semester and I really enjoyed the dynamic it created. Because of this I went ahead and signed up for the honors version of the second part of the class. We would meet every on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Brightwater campus. It was because it was a class with food, that we took it at the culinary school. We went to multiple different restaurants around the local area to discuss the countries that these foods had come from. We had Greek food, sushi, Indian cuisine, and so much more. At the end of the semester I remember having a food research project for the class. I was really stressed about it, but it turned out to be a lot more fun than I was expecting. I did my project on British food rationing during the Second World War. It was something that had always fascinated me. I even showed up to my presentation with visual aids and everything. This was the class and the assignment that helped me determine that I wanted to teach history. The class showed me that there was so much more to the world we live in than just the United States. I

never appreciated other countries for what they were before taking the class. After the class my eyes were opened to endless possibilities.

My American National Government class was an interesting situation. When I originally signed up for the class, I was enrolled in the on-campus class. Then I was dropped from the class because the lack of students that signed up for it. Then I signed up for the regular online class. I did not realize that I could talk to the professor and explain the situation and see if I could get honors credit for anything in the class. Thankfully someone told me this and I emailed Dr. Evans to find out. He emailed me back and I ended up meeting with him to determine a plan. For the whole semester I had been researching for a pretty lengthy paper that would be due at the end of the semester. It was more difficult than it thought. I ended up writing about how the show *I Love Lucy* inspired many women that there was more to just life than being a housewife. It is my plan to later present that paper at a conference later in the spring semester. Other than this paper, there was not anything different from the regular class. However, considering my situation, the honors class probably would have been a bit more involved than the class that I took. Out of all these classes Philosophy proved to be the hardest for me.

I took Philosophy with honors this semester with Dr. Krueger. It was a very interesting class to say the least. I think this class was so difficult for me because there was not as many grades involved. I also had never taken tests like these before. We had to memorize definitions and write them down along with answering a few essay questions. We had to do it all without a word bank. I had a lot of trouble with this at the beginning. Then I thought of something I had heard one day that made me think. "If you are in a class that is too easy and you fly through, then you are in the

wrong class,” Dr. Forrester. After looking at it that way I was able to come up with a system that worked best for me so I could succeed.

My time in the honors program has been filled with so many wonderful memories that I will always take with me. From long chats in the study area to completely fooling around. One of my favorite moments would have to be the filling of the bean bag with more foam beans. It made a huge mess. Never in a million years would I have thought that I would have actually enjoyed college at NWACC. I have made so many friends to last me a lifetime and I will never forget the lessons that I have been taught by the people I have meet and by the classes I have taken. I do not know where my life would be if I had never signed up for the Honors Astronomy class by accident. I often think about where I would be if I had not meet any of the people I have met throughout my time in the honors program. I would have never been inspired, I would have never gone to Greece, I would have never reached outside my comfort zone to try and reach for more with my life. For that, I am forever grateful.