

Q&A with Peyton Sanderson
2022 Thomas K. Evans Memorial Scholarship semi-finalist

High School: Pleasant Valley High School

Secondary Education Plans/Major: Iowa State University, majoring in Aerospace Engineering with a minor in Astronomy

What inspires or excites you most about learning? I've always had a desire to learn new information about anything and everything; I think it is very important to keep learning as you go through different stages of life.

What is an accomplishment in your life that you're most proud of thus far? I think my greatest accomplishment has been pushing myself out of my comfort zone. During senior year I decided to leave the school I had grown up in my whole life, and it was a hard decision, but Pleasant Valley was very welcoming and felt like home right away.

Why did you decide to apply for the Thomas K. Evans Memorial Scholarship? I applied for this scholarship because I heard about it from my engineering teacher, and I thought the message that the scholarship sent in memorial of such a great person was wonderful.

How does it feel to be chosen as a semi-finalist/recipient? I was genuinely shocked when I got the news and was proud of myself, but also felt honored to be given a scholarship in memory of Thomas.

Future goals and aspirations? My goals for the future are to travel and do a lot of research during college to broaden my horizons and get real world experience that will lead me to a great career. I'm very excited to be attending ISU and studying in their engineering department, and I know my younger self would be so proud that I am living out my dream.