

# Scholarship Applicant Summary

<b>Name:</b>	Crystal Keller	<b>Age at Graduation:</b>	18
<b>Site:</b>	Home Campus	<b>Length of Stay:</b>	1 year 8 months
<b>Post Graduation Plan:</b>	4-Year College	<b>Placement Status:</b>	Probation
<b>GPA:</b>	3.88	<b>ACT Score:</b>	17
<b>Planning Meeting #1:</b>	78	<b>Planning Meeting #2:</b>	90
<b>School Name:</b>	UNO	<b>Current Employment:</b>	Not currently employed
<b>SSM Model Category #:</b>	1	<b>Pell Amount \$</b>	7395
<b>Extra-Curricular:</b>	- I participated in all of these completing every sport sucseffuly. (2024-2026)		
<b>Leadership Positions:</b>	- Peer minster (2025-2026) - Sports leadership group (2024-2026)		
<b>Major/Field of Work or Study:</b>	Science of avation, and professional fight		
<b>Post-Graduation Final Plan Details:</b>	My plan after graduation is to attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) while serving part-time in the National Guard. At UNO, I will be studying Professional Flight and Aviation. I expect to begin coursework either in the fall or winter, depending on the timeline for my Advanced Life Skills training and the length of my basic training. The National Guard will cover my tuition, and I will also receive the Pell Grant, GI Bill, and the GI Bill kicker to support my education and living expenses.		
<b>What needs to be done to finalize my plan:</b>	I am currently in the process of determining the dates for my basic training, as this will directly affect when I am able to begin my studies at UNO. Finalizing my training schedule is essential so I can plan my academic start date accurately. In addition, securing reliable transportation is an important part of continuing with my goals. Because I do not currently have a vehicle, traveling especially long-distance trips between Scottsbluff, UNO, and my National Guard base can be challenging. Obtaining a car would significantly improve my ability to travel for school, training, and drill weekends. Until then, I will need to rely on carpooling and advance planning to ensure I can meet all responsibilities.		
<b>Youth Identified Challenges/Barriers:</b>	At this time, I do not have personal transportation. This makes long-distance travel from my home in Scottsbluff to UNO and to my National Guard base—more difficult and less reliable. Having a car would make it much easier for me to travel for school, training, and drill weekends. Until I am able to purchase a vehicle, I will need to rely on options such as carpooling with friends, classmates, or fellow Guard members, and planning my travel ahead of time. I also plan to save money from drill pay to eventually buy a reliable vehicle.		
<b>Housing Plan:</b>	College dorm		
<b>Outstanding Needs:</b>	Transportation		

## Letter of Recommendation

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Keller, Crystal (4-year college)</b>	<b>Completed On: 2/17/26</b>
<b>Recommender:</b>	<b>Matulevicz, Michele (Coach)</b>	<b>Total Score: 115/115</b>

### Application Type:

Scholarship

Community Supports

Housing

<b>Total Score</b>	<b>115/115</b>
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Academic & Career Readiness	35/35
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Interpersonal & Communication Skills	10/10
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Character & Leadership	35/35
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Adaptability & Resilience	15/15
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4-Year College	20/20
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### Insightful Recommendation

#### Can you share a moment when the applicant demonstrated integrity, empathy, or leadership in a meaningful way?

One moment that stands out clearly occurred when Crystal was recovering from an injury during this, her senior basketball season. Although she was unable to participate fully on the court, she remained fully committed to the team and found ways to contribute as a leader. Instead of focusing on her own setback, Crystal made a point to encourage her teammates, help younger players understand drills, and offer positive feedback during practices and games.

Her actions demonstrated both empathy and integrity. She chose to put the success and well-being of her team ahead of her own disappointment, showing maturity and selflessness well beyond her years. Her teammates naturally looked to her for guidance, and her steady encouragement helped maintain team morale during a challenging time.

This experience highlighted Crystal's natural leadership ability. She leads by example, supports others without seeking recognition, and consistently demonstrates respect, perseverance, and compassion. It is this combination of character and leadership that makes her such a strong candidate for scholarship support.

#### Has the applicant faced a significant challenge, and how did they respond or grow from that experience?

Yes, Crystal has faced significant challenges during her high school athletic career, including injuries that limited her ability to compete as well as personal family concerns that required resilience and maturity. These circumstances could easily have discouraged her, but instead, Crystal responded with determination and a positive attitude.

Rather than allowing setbacks to define her, she used them as opportunities to grow. During times when she was unable to play at full capacity, she remained committed to her teams by supporting her teammates, staying engaged in practices, and continuing to lead through encouragement and example. Her ability to stay focused on the bigger picture demonstrated both emotional strength and a deep sense of responsibility.

Through these experiences, Crystal developed greater resilience, empathy, and leadership skills. She learned how to navigate adversity with grace, maintain perspective, and inspire others even while facing her own difficulties. Her growth through these challenges has strengthened her character and prepared her well for the demands of college and future life experiences.

**What aspects of the applicant's character or experience make them a strong fit for the Successful Futures program (Housing or Community Supports) and/or strengthen their scholarship application?**

Crystal's character and experiences make her an excellent fit for the Successful Futures program and a very strong scholarship candidate. She consistently demonstrates resilience, responsibility, and a strong commitment to supporting others — qualities that align closely the Successful Futures Program.

Crystal has developed into a natural leader who values teamwork, inclusion, and accountability. She leads by example and creates a positive environment where others feel supported and encouraged. Her selfless approach and genuine care for her teammates show her ability to contribute meaningfully to a community-centered program.

Crystal has also faced and overcome personal challenges, including injuries and family concerns, which have strengthened her perseverance and maturity. Rather than allowing adversity to discourage her, she has used these experiences to build empathy and determination. These qualities demonstrate her ability to adapt, remain focused on long-term goals, and make the most of opportunities designed to support future success.

Overall, Crystal's strong work ethic, leadership, and compassionate nature strengthen her scholarship application and suggest she will both benefit from and positively contribute to the supportive community environment offered by the Successful Futures program.

**Can you share a specific story or moment that highlights the applicant's strengths or the positive impact they've made, based on your personal experience with them?**

One moment that clearly highlights Crystal's character occurred during this basketball season when she was recovering from an injury and unable to contribute on the court in the way she was used to. Rather than stepping back, Crystal chose to lean into a leadership role. She stayed engaged at every practice, encouraged teammates who were struggling, and helped younger players understand drills and game strategy. Her focus remained on the success of the team rather than her own circumstances.

What stood out most was the way her attitude positively influenced those around her. Her perseverance and optimism helped keep team morale strong during a challenging period, and her teammates naturally looked to her for guidance and reassurance. She demonstrated empathy by checking in on others and celebrating their progress, showing that leadership is not just about performance but about lifting others up.

This experience reflects the strengths I have consistently seen in Crystal across volleyball, basketball, and soccer — resilience, selflessness, and natural leadership. Her ability to turn personal adversity into an opportunity to support others made a lasting impact on our team and speaks to the kind of person she is both on and off the field.

**Is there any additional insight or information you'd like to provide about this applicant that hasn't been covered yet?**

## Letter of Recommendation

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Keller, Crystal (4-year college)</b>	<b>Completed On: 2/19/26</b>
<b>Recommender:</b>	<b>Wallinger, Emily (Teacher)</b>	<b>Total Score: N/A</b>
<b>Application Type:</b> Scholarship		
<b>Insightful Recommendation</b>		
<b>Can you share a moment when the applicant demonstrated integrity, empathy, or leadership in a meaningful way?</b>		
Uni is extremely involved on campus, which I believe gives her regular opportunities to demonstrate integrity and leadership. She is an athlete, as well as a member of the girls youth group. Additionally, in Journalism class, Uni frequently volunteers for picture-taking opportunities that others might not be willing to attend, and she volunteers to design spreads that others are not interested in. This leadership quality is very important in a class like Journalism, where we try and make sure that students in all grades and activities are represented equally.		
<b>Has the applicant faced a significant challenge, and how did they respond or grow from that experience?</b>		
Halfway through her senior basketball season, Uni faced a season-ending injury. Despite having to deal with the pain of the injury and the frustration of missing the rest of her games, Uni maintained a positive attitude and remained a staunch supporter of her teammates. She took yearbook photos during the game to keep herself busy, and worked on healing herself both emotionally and physically.		
<b>What aspects of the applicant's character or experience make them a strong fit for the Successful Futures program (Housing or Community Supports) and/or strengthen their scholarship application?</b>		
Uni has faced a lot of adversity in her life, and yet she remains positive and focused on securing a bright future for herself. She is committed to helping her family once she leaves Boys Town, but she also realizes that she needs to make herself a priority in order to build a strong foundation in adulthood. Uni is caring and considerate of others, never judging them for their past mistakes or circumstances. She is strong in her convictions and able to stand up for herself when needed.		
<b>Can you share a specific story or moment that highlights the applicant's strengths or the positive impact they've made, based on your personal experience with them?</b>		
I have Uni is fourth block English, which is the time of day when many students miss class for appointments or sports commitments. When Uni herself is absent, she is extremely responsible about getting her missing work or catching herself up on anything she has missed. However, perhaps more significantly, she makes sure that any peers that miss class are able to get caught up as well. She's always willing to share her notes or help walk another student through something they might have missed. I believe this willingness to help others highlights the positive impact that she's had on the Boys Town community during her time here.		
<b>Is there any additional insight or information you'd like to provide about this applicant that hasn't been covered yet?</b>		
I truly believe that with the guidance and support of Boys Town and the Successful Futures program, Uni will be able to achieve every goal she has set for herself post-graduation.		

## Letter of Recommendation

<b>Student:</b>	Keller, Crystal (4-year college)	<b>Completed On:</b> 2/17/26
<b>Recommender:</b>	Johnstone, Nate (consultant)	<b>Total Score:</b> 112/115
<b>Application Type:</b>		
Scholarship		
Housing		
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>112/115</b>	
Academic & Career Readiness	34/35	
Interpersonal & Communication Skills	10/10	
Character & Leadership	34/35	
Adaptability & Resilience	14/15	
4-Year College	20/20	
<b>Insightful Recommendation</b>		
<b>Can you share a moment when the applicant demonstrated integrity, empathy, or leadership in a meaningful way?</b>		
<p>Crystal has consistently demonstrated integrity/leadership throughout all of her extracurricular activities she is involved in. She has been a Peer Minister where she helps develop other youth's spiritual growth, acting as a role model, not only in her own faith, but as a leader on campus as well. Crystal has also been a part of JROTC and an integral member of the Leadership Group for all girl's varsity sports where she acts a leader/role model as well. Crystal is seen as an outgoing, caring and positive member of the community, not only by her peers, but by adults as well.</p>		
<b>Has the applicant faced a significant challenge, and how did they respond or grow from that experience?</b>		
<p>Crystal has consistently demonstrated the ability to overcome adversity as her adoptive mom was minimally involved in her treatment/goals here at Boys Town and has not been a strong support for Crystal during her time in the program. In spite of that lack of support, Crystal has been able to effectively accomplish her goals in pursuance of her post Boys Town goals/aspirations. She was removed from probation and remains a private placed youth until graduation, despite being able to leave Boys Town once successfully terminating probation, demonstrating her desire/willingness to ensure that she has a successful future.</p>		
<b>What aspects of the applicant's character or experience make them a strong fit for the Successful Futures program (Housing or Community Supports) and/or strengthen their scholarship application?</b>		
<p>Crystal is consistently seen as a leader among her peer group, not only in the home, but in the various extracurricular activities she is involved in, as well as in the community as a whole. She is helpful, caring and demonstrates a unique ability to not only manage her own intense/busy schedule, but to make time for those she cares about as well. Crystal has been a truly upstanding citizen of Boys Town, not without hiccups, who deserves the opportunity to make a life for herself, with the help of Successful Futures scholarships/housing.</p>		
<b>Can you share a specific story or moment that highlights the applicant's strengths or the positive impact they've made, based on your personal experience with them?</b>		
<p>As mentioned prior, Crystal has taken on several leadership roles with the community, as a manager in the home, as a peer minister for the religious department and as a leader within the Varsity athletics department as well. She has developed a unique ability to manage a difficult/busy schedule between her academics, senior/future planning and her busy sports/club/leadership development involvement as well. Crystal navigates all of these responsibilities with grace and an attitude of gratitude as she understands the impact/support that Boys Town has provided her and intends on taking full advantage of all they have to offer.</p>		

**Is there any additional insight or information you'd like to provide about this applicant that hasn't been covered yet?**

NA

## Letter of Recommendation

<b>Student:</b>	Keller, Crystal (4-year college)	<b>Completed On:</b> 2/19/26
<b>Recommender:</b>	Leeper, Torrey (Director )	<b>Total Score:</b> 102/110
<b>Application Type:</b>		
Scholarship		
Housing		
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>102/110</b>	
Academic & Career Readiness	28/30	
Interpersonal & Communication Skills	9/10	
Character & Leadership	34/35	
Adaptability & Resilience	12/15	
4-Year College	19/20	
<b>Insightful Recommendation</b>		
<b>Can you share a moment when the applicant demonstrated integrity, empathy, or leadership in a meaningful way?</b>		
<p>There is not one defining moment when Uni demonstrated integrity, empathy, or leadership. I have seen her grow into a young person who learned to embody these characteristics over time. When Uni arrived at Boys Town she did not always demonstrate integrity. She would frequently get caught up in the high school drama, one person in front of peers and another in front of adults. Upon receiving several talks with the Lucero-Miners and other trusted adults, Uni began valuing the trusted relationship with adults in her life. Over time, Uni demonstrated she was becoming a person of leadership. This was shown through the little, but consistent behaviors over time. She began peer and self-reporting. She began talking more and holding her peers accountable during family meetings. Uni was a manager and generalized her leadership skills outside of the home into the community. She joined clubs, tried out and made varsity teams, and was a Peer Minister.</p>		
<b>Has the applicant faced a significant challenge, and how did they respond or grow from that experience?</b>		
<p>Uni has faced many significant challenges. One of the hardest I have seen her navigate is the relationship between her and adoptive mom. Uni learned to express herself appropriately and build on healthy alternatives to navigate the loss of this relationship. She demonstrated maturity, understanding and a bit of self-reflection. While this relationship faded, Uni began slowly reconnecting with her biological family.</p>		
<b>What aspects of the applicant's character or experience make them a strong fit for the Successful Futures program (Housing or Community Supports) and/or strengthen their scholarship application?</b>		
<p>Watching Uni play a game of volleyball or basketball, expresses a lot about her character. Uni plays with a good deal of discipline, she stays committed to her role on the team, when it is her turn to get in the game she is going to give it her all, demonstrate resiliency between the calls and self-reflects through the wins and losses. These characteristics makes her a strong fit for the program and scholarship application.</p>		
<b>Can you share a specific story or moment that highlights the applicant's strengths or the positive impact they've made, based on your personal experience with them?</b>		
<p>Uni makes the campus of Boys Town stronger. She came to the program, bought in to the Lucero-Miners family, and each day becoming a young person with strong values. When young people such as Uni began to do the work externally and internally, this creates a positive impact for the Boys Town community as a whole. Her positive impact and leadership has been felt on campus in the Lucero-Miner home.</p>		
<b>Is there any additional insight or information you'd like to provide about this applicant that hasn't been covered yet?</b>		

Hello, my name is Crystal Keller, but I go by Unica. After graduation, I plan to attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha to study Aviation and Professional Flight. In relation to my degree, I plan to serve part time in the National Guard and keep a side job so I can support myself and gain real world experience along the way. The Aviation and Professional Flight program takes about four years, and I am ready to commit to every moment of it. While I am in school, I hope to grow not just as a student, but as a future pilot learning in the classroom and finding my confidence in the air. After earning my degree, I want to take everything I have learned and everything the Guard has taught me and work toward becoming a pilot for jets and helicopters.

My long term dream is to serve my country and build a solid, meaningful career in aviation, one that gives me purpose and stability. I want to keep growing into a leader who is steady, capable, and inspiring, the same way others have inspired me on my journey.

During my time here at Boys Town, I have learned a lot, but the most powerful realizations I have gained come down to two truths. The first is that challenges can actually become opportunities. When you see a challenge as just a challenge, it makes you question whether you are doing anything right. But when you look at it as an opportunity, it removes the negative thoughts that usually come with struggles. It gives you a chance to reframe your thinking and recognize that every obstacle has the potential to shape you into a better version of yourself. I will always be grateful for learning that. The greatest lesson I learned this year is that resilience is not something etched into you at birth, it is something you shape through every hard moment, every heartbreak, every time life pushes you to your knees. It is built in the quiet decision to rise again, refusing to let your hardest days become the ones that define who you are meant to be.

I have faced a lot of ups here at Boys Town, but I have also had my share of downs. I have lost people I cared about. I have cried through nights when life felt too heavy. I have broken bones, and I had to sit out my sport for most of the season. No one talks about how hard it is to watch your teammates play, knowing you will not get to step back on the court again before the season ends. It feels like watching your own future move forward without you. It is a quiet kind of heartbreak, the kind that teaches you patience, humility, and strength all at once.

Instead of letting these things bury me or change who I was, I let them grow me. It is one of the hardest things a person can do: to push through the moments that feel impossible. But if there were no hard moments in life, how would we ever learn to cherish the good ones? Resilience did not come easily. It meant fighting against my first instincts. Instead of walking away, I crawled. I refused to give up during the hardest moments. Instead of crumbling, I got back up and found my fight again. Resilience is not something you can see at eye level. It lives under the skin, in the mind, in the small shift from “This is too hard” to “I can do this.” It sounds simple, but it has been the hardest and most important lesson I have learned this year.

One of the greatest challenges I expect to face next is completing basic training, along with managing my transportation needs. Basic training will test me both physically and mentally, pushing me past my original limits and setting new ones to break. I know there will be moments when the process feels overwhelming, when victories feel like setbacks, and when every part of me is exhausted. But I also know that basic training is designed to break people down so they can grow, develop, and ultimately thrive. I want to embrace that challenge with a different outlook than most people. Yes, it might break me, but it is like when concrete cracks and flowers bloom: it is a chance to grow into something even more beautiful.

In addition to the demands of training, traveling between school, home, and base will be difficult without reliable transportation. Balancing these responsibilities while staying committed to my goals will require discipline and a strong sense of purpose. Even though it may be difficult, I am confident that these opportunities will shape me into a stronger and more prepared version of myself.

In the near future, I will be moving back to Scottsbluff for the summer, where I will be working at a family owned restaurant while searching for a car. Scottsbluff does not offer much public transportation because it is such a small town, so securing my own vehicle is an essential step. I have already applied for the UNO dorms for the upcoming school year and will be living on campus with new roommates, ready to begin this next chapter of my life with a fresh sense of purpose and excitement.

I have spent a great deal of time researching the programs at UNO, including those focused on supporting Native American students. Learning about these programs made me feel seen, represented, and supported as I take my next steps. My grandmother has been supporting me throughout this journey and will be helping me transfer my belongings back to Omaha after summer. I am ecstatic to see what my future holds. Even though I may not know exactly what is ahead, I know for a fact that I will succeed, because failure is not an option for me.

Growing up in a low income family and being adopted taught me early what it means to survive storms that most people never see. I learned how to push through moments that felt impossible and keep my eyes on the goals I set for myself, even when the world felt heavy. Those hardships did not just shape me, they built me. They turned me into someone who refuses to quit, even when life tries to knock me down.

I will be the first person in my immediate family to earn a full college education, to graduate, and to serve in the Guard. That is not just an accomplishment to me, it is a legacy I carry with pride. It is proof that where you start does not have to decide where you are going, and that even the hardest beginnings can lead to something powerful. I am also continuing a family tradition by working with planes. I grew up around them, watching others show dedication and discipline. Now I have the chance to be in the air myself, and that dream means more to me than anyone might realize. Having your support in this opportunity is not just helpful, it is life changing. It reminds me that my dreams are real and within reach.

I hope you can see the impact you make on the lives of people like me. I went from being a kid who hated school to someone who loves learning and looks forward to the future. The obstacles I face now are not setbacks but opportunities to grow and prove myself again and again. If you take a chance on me, I will show you why second chances matter. I have made it this far by refusing to let my past define me, and I will continue to push forward no matter what comes my way. You will not see me give up.

Thank you, truly, for giving me the opportunity to even apply. Your willingness to consider students like me makes a bigger difference than you may ever realize. Boys Town supports me in a way nothing ever has. I have made friends, memories, and dreams here, but most importantly, I have made a forever family. As an adopted child, that is all I ever wanted. Since I will be in Omaha, I plan to stay connected with them, and I will continue to check in with my senior specialist for support and guidance. Most of all, I want you to know that this opportunity represents hope, stability, and a future I once thought might not be possible. Thank you again for allowing me to share my story and show why I am ready for this next step.

I used AI to fix the grammar and spelling. It helped make my writing clearer and easier to read.