

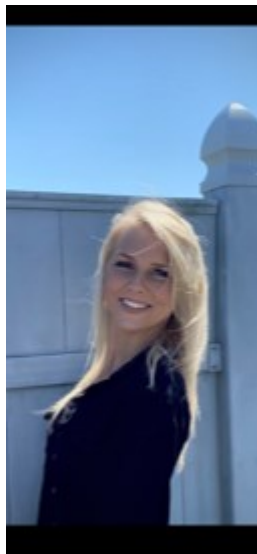


IBEW 2213 NEWSBEAT

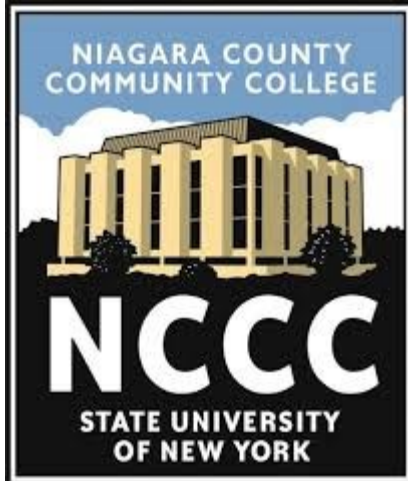
July 17th 2020

Scholarship Spotlight

How the union has affected my life



My name is Megan Seifried and I am 17 years old. I live in Colden NY and will be graduating from Springville Griffith High School and Ormsby Boces for Health Careers in June 2020. I am part of the National Honor Society for Boces as well as class Secretary for the Health Careers class. I also play travel hockey for the Cazenovia Lady Chiefs and played soccer and lacrosse for school. Both of my parents have worked for Verizon since 1997. (They are members of CWA 1122 and IBEW 2213) as well as some Aunts and Uncles. Unions have always played an important role in my family. Each one of them have always taught me the importance of being represented by a union. Growing up in a union family, I have seen that the unions have secured their members a competitive wage, reasonable work hours, personal and vacation time, better healthcare and giving them better working



conditions than non-represented workers. During some of the work stoppages, I was able to understand what the union does for their workers. Seeing this has taught me that sometimes you have to go without things while fighting for what you believe in. In the past, I have made signs and walked the picket line with my parents. I saw how coworkers have supported each other and helped each other as family would. Union members from other companies and states that didn't know each other were all supporting each other one way or another. People that were not even employees dropping off food, drinks, beeping their horn to show support for what the union was fighting for, to help maintain what my family and other families were entitled to. I was able to see and feel the strong unity of the workers and the supporters. Labor unions continue to fight for change in supporting workers and their families. This fight has resulted in paid sick leave, as well as

paid family and medical leave laws. Many people have said that unions are not as strong as they once were. I feel that my generation needs to understand the important role that unions have played in the economy, because the next generation of workers need to have the skills to keep unions alive. It is important that we learn how much unions still matter.

I would like to be employed by a union company and fight to keep the unions alive. With my parents being part of a union and having the secure wage, job protection, health benefits and vacation time, we were able to do things that some other families may not have been able to like- go on family vacations and spend more time together on holidays and weekends. My parents were able to be there on most weekends for my hockey games and take me back and forth to practices. As well as attend my high school sporting games. The union secured this way of life for my parents which I feel helped my brother and I have a better life.

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