



IBEW 2213 NEWSBEAT

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IN SOLIDARITY



SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Collin Hill is the son of Barb Carson. He is the winner from the Central Unit. Here is his winning essay!



When I started to think about what I wanted to write in this essay, I feel like the answer is that the union has affected every single day of my life, probably even before I was born. Because of union negotiated benefits, my mother was able to take advantage of Care for Newborn Child leave. She stayed home with me for a year and was present for all of my milestones. She says that was one of the deciding factors for her when she was offered to job at Verizon. This isn't an opportunity many parents are allowed.

For as long as I can remember, my mom has been very involved in her local. She worked her way up and she is currently the Business Manager. She taught my sister and I valuable lessons about solidarity, standing up for what you believe in and taking care of people. We've spent countless hours on picket lines, at rallies and even in preschool I wore red on Thursday. She explained the meaning behind that and it has always stayed with me.

My stepfather Jamie Carson, is also a Verizon employee and union member. He belongs to CWA Local 1111 now, but he was a member of 2213 previously. He is currently a steward for 1111. Together, my parents have made unionism a way of life for our household. They have taught me the importance of maintaining a strong work ethic, brotherhood, volunteerism and being involved in our community.

My parents have great jobs. Because their unions have fought for fair wages and benefits, my sister and I never had to worry about having a roof over our heads or food on the table. We were able to enjoy many sports and activities throughout our school years. We never had to worry that an injury suffered on the field would bankrupt our family with hospital bills. We have been fortunate and my parents have always given the IBEW and CWA credit for that. We know, without a shadow of a doubt how fortunate we are to have the things so many families struggle for. They have taught us to not be arrogant but rather to be grateful.

In the Fall of 2021 I plan to attend The State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry. I have always wanted to have a job that would allow me to work outside and I am passionate about protecting our environment. As with everything in my life, the union jobs my parents have will make this possible. They are able to help me financially with pursuing my education.

The lessons I have learned and the appreciation I have for all the things my parents have worked hard to provide will be with me for the rest of my life. I know that generations of workers have fought for all of the things we enjoy today. The Labor movement has made job sites safe, provided workers with sustainable, living wages and benefits second to none. Unions built the middle class, that isn't just a slogan, it's a fact and my family is proof of that. I am proud of my parents, what they believe in and the guidance they have given me over the past 18 years.



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