Finding My Path

Over the summer, I attended the Governor's School for Entrepreneurs, and I discovered what I am passionate about pursuing in my future. During my time at GSE, my team and I discovered a growing problem with the increasing number of children diagnosed with speech impediments. After intense research, we developed KONVO, a solution to enhance speech therapy and empower the voices of our youth. Through games, activities, and speaking exercises, KONVO creates an engaging learning environment for users to improve speech abilities. Through KONVO, I recognized my calling to reach people who may not be able to access or afford the currently offered solutions, such as speech therapy. After completing the program, I realized my interest in studying speech pathology and communication disorder sciences in the future and my willingness to pursue this business idea. As a college student, I plan to include my compassion, communication, and critical thinking skills to make this dream my reality.

At GSE, students who have attended speech therapy or knew someone who attended were interviewed to gather data on the current solutions for speech impediments. During speech sessions, many students reported that their speech therapist lacked compassion, resulting in them losing interest. As someone who values compassion, I strive to be intentional when I interact with others; I plan to use this aspect in my career to help encourage people, to help them see their value, and to help them become more comfortable.

One of the reasons for my level of compassion comes from my faith and how it has impacted my outlook on life. In my future career, I hope to share my compassion with others by providing love and positivity.

Having won an art award for my self portrait last year, I realized that using creative expressions to communicate with others might be valuable to my career as a speech pathologist. As someone who has used art as a form of communication since a young age, utilizing painting activities can help children develop their creativity, confidence, and speech abilities. In addition to communication and using art as a form of creative expression, my past experiences have allowed me to develop critical thinking skills useful for my future career. One experience that allowed my critical thinking skills to shine was my culinary internship at Dare to Care last summer. Through this experience, I learned how to effectively communicate in a fast-paced environment and collaborate with others to accomplish tasks which could be useful in speech pathology.

As I reflect on my summer at GSE, the biggest thing I took away from the experience was that we often don't realize what we have until we know who we are. All along I have possessed these skills of compassion, communication, and critical thinking that will serve value as I pursue a career as a speech pathologist. This scholarship would help me further my education as I study speech pathology and start my own business.