

Morgan Cooper

Leah White

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### Why Honors?

When I first learned of the Honors Program at MNSU, I wasn't interested. My experience with an honors program in high school included only required community service projects and an honors distinction that I did not feel helped me any. So, I felt joining an honors program in college would only add more stress to my life. However, while applying for the Presidential Scholarship, I noticed that I could automatically apply for the Honors Program as well. "Why not?" I thought. I applied and was accepted. I reasoned that community service isn't too difficult, and an honors program during college would be good for a resume. I had no idea how much the Honors Program here would provide me, and that is why I am a continued member.

The Honors Program's focus on developing useful experiences for its members is useful for anyone. These experiences develop skills in leadership, research, and intercultural engagement; skills useful for developing professionals. College graduates with advanced development in leadership, research, and intercultural engagement greatly stand out in comparison to their peers without such detailed experience. It is true that one can practice these skills without involvement with the Honors Program, but the program not only helps provide these skills but also so much more. The Honors Program helps individuals put together a portfolio that proves the development of these skills. This can be a great tool to bring to interviews but also assists students with the ability to evaluate their experiences and explain why they are important. An added benefit with the Honors Program that can be

easily forgotten is the community of likeminded individuals that one will meet. I, personally, met one of my roommates through the Honors Program, and we have become very close friends.

My experience at MNSU has been influenced positively by the Honors Program. Because of this program, I have joined the Society of Human Resources Management club here. Not only have I joined, but I have great interest in pursuing a leadership role soon. I have also become a research apprentice. I used to believe that research was only for science majors, and that a business major like me would never be able to complete a research project. Now, I assist a professor in conducting research on generational differences in the workplace; a topic that I find extremely interesting and useful for my human resources degree. The Honors Program has also provided me with a much more culturally unique college experience that I am still expanding. I have developed basic knowledge in two different languages other than English, and I have attended seminars that discuss important societal topics, such as gender and race. This program has only pushed me to experience even more than I ever knew possible at MNSU. Such experiences will make me a very well-rounded prospective candidate for any career of my choosing, as well as a more well-rounded human being. I have the Honors Program to thank for this. And that little check box on a scholarship application.