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### Why Honors?

The Honors Program here at MNSU has impacted my college experience in ways I did not expect. Just off the name alone, many (including myself pre-membership) would assume that the program simply brings together academically successful students who want an additional accomplishment to bring to their future job interviews. However, the Honors Program provides students with so much more than a bullet point on a résumé. The program focuses on the development of these academically successful students in three areas: leadership; research, scholarly, and creative activities; and global citizenship/intercultural engagement. I believe many programs for young scholars focus on the student's success in their current academics rather than developing them to be successful in their future careers. MNSU's Honors Program has a focus on bettering students in the forementioned key areas. I believe that having high quality experiences in these competencies will set students up for prosperous futures. I know that, personally, the Honors Program has given me those advantageous experiences while also improving my college experience overall.

My mindset throughout most of college was to focus on working and graduating with high honors. This type of mentality did not allow for exploration of what college has to offer. The Honors Program is what pushed me to explore. Because of the Honors Program, I met one of my roommates, participated in research, attended social justice seminars, and so much more. Not only did my college experience improve with the Honors Program, but I believe the program has provided me with the tools

needed for success in my future career. I have experiences in leadership, research, and intercultural engagement already under my belt. In addition, I know how to evaluate my participation in these activities and then use them to build a better version of myself both professionally and personally. These advantages are something I never expected when applying for the program, but I am so glad I did.