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Professor Rinehart-Kim

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Personal Statement

I have always found myself being drawn to the medical field since I was a child. There was something so special about being able to improve the quality of life or help so many individuals. I continued to pursue a career in the medical field throughout high school and into college. I was given the opportunity to travel to Malawi, Africa to work in a medical field. I quickly accepted the offer to travel overseas to help in the medical clinic, but I had no idea of what to expect. I knew that the medical clinic was taking place in a village outside of the nearest town, but other than the location I had no information or idea how to prepare for the experience. As soon as I had arrived to the medical clinic the first day I glanced out of the vehicle window to see a line of people stretching as far down the road as my eyes could see. I began to feel overwhelmed while walking up to the clinic seeing everyone and trying to observe their conditions. There were kids living with broken limbs for months with no care, there were pregnant women who had never seen a doctor or received an ultrasound, there were men and women suffering from diseases and ailments that I had never seen before or heard of before. Regardless of the physical condition someone was in every single person greeted me with a smile and their energy lit up the room I was in every time. The intended goal for this trip was for me to observe and learn from the doctors and nurses treating patients in the clinic, and for me to assist in any way I could to help the patients in the clinic. However, I ended up learning the most from the patients in the clinic.

I was fortunate enough to be able to speak with some older women in the village about the birthing process and how they assist other women in giving birth, as well as their own birth experiences. While I was working in the clinic, I was able to assist in the birthing process and was taught the basics of being a midwife. I had always wanted to be able to work in the medical field to help people, but I had never really thought about what I would specialize in or what type of profession I would have within the medical field. Being able to learn deep rooted midwifing techniques taught and passed down for centuries by these women grabbed at my soul and I quickly realized I had a passion for the birthing process. The birthing process in the states can feel numb or very stigmatized, but what I learned from working with midwifes in a foreign country was that deep rooted cultural and sacred birthing techniques establishes such a profound admiration and passion for birth.

Working in this medical clinic, and specifically getting to learn midwifing techniques from women in the village brought my attention to pursuing a career as a midwife. I realized the importance of learning birthing techniques from women who have been midwifes and had their techniques passed down to them from generations before them. I gained a passion for creating a sacred and beautiful birthing experience for women across the world.