

Haskell Brady Jr. Scholarship Essay

I never understood how unique my background is until starting University in a large town. I am from Kankakee, IL, my parents being from the same town. My father grew up in Hopkins Park and St. Anne, IL. Hopkins being a place that I still call home and now to my new friends about. My parents graduated high school but neither went into higher education to receive a degree. I will be the first of my parents' children together. This drives me to do my best to provide a life for myself that not only can I be proud of but my parents and future children too, to live a life that inspires others like me.

As I end my first year at University, I have gained a lot of knowledge about what I want to do in my future and my career. I have also become involved on campus with the hopes of doing more. I currently work two jobs, one as a Cook for a nursing home and the other working for Illinois State Athletics, checking bags and ensuring public safety guidelines are met. During my first year at Illinois State University, I volunteered with the Center for Civic Engagement to clean up our campus, keeping it clean and beautiful. As a part of a class project, my group and I created a Fade Out, Leave Out library for the local YWCA where students can visit their garden and read books with the hopes of combating the ever-growing literacy crisis in America now.

I have also joined the Student Wellness Ambassadors Team, a club on campus that advocates for student wellness by providing resources weekly and hosting weekly meetings where we present and discuss wellness topics such as sleep, gut, and holistic health etc. I am a general member of the group P Power, where we discuss women's empowerment and foster a safe space for women to express themselves and share stories that they otherwise have felt unable or uncomfortable sharing. I am also a member of the Illinois State University Black Student Union. I have recently been elected to the Black Student Union 2024-2027 Executive