The personal statement helps colleges get to know you better as a person and a student. Please provide a 1,250-3,250 character statement discussing your educational path (approx. 250 - 650 words).

*How does continuing your education at a new institution help you achieve your future goals?*

“Team Yellow! Let’s start by introducing our name, age, and where you’re from!” I enthusiastically said. Yet the only reply I could get was an unintelligible mumble. Seeing how disinterested everyone was, I knew it would take a huge effort to get the ball rolling. So I began to take the time to understand each of their individual behaviors. I realized that my role as a team leader wasn’t to tell these kids what to do, but to be a mentor to them. My role working at SuperCamp allowed me to understand that staying attuned to each camper and tailoring my attention to their needs is key. By the end of camp, my campers had explored their strengths, ignited confidence, and developed life skills for years to come. Coming into SuperCamp, my goal was to plant a seed in the young lives of my campers, yet they have done the same in mine. My passion for education and the youth had turned into my life’s ambition.

If a personalized approach was so crucial in this situation, would the same apply to a child’s learning? I decided to dive deeper into the elementary education system to find out. I conducted my research project on how differentiated instruction can help teachers foster students’ self-efficacy and learning motivation. After consulting the curriculum coordinator of Indonesia’s most prominent educational foundations, I situated myself in the educational world through classroom observations and extensive interviews with teachers. From my research, I learned that allowing students to take part in learning methods that leveraged their areas of strengths while catering towards their areas of need showed a positive correlation with their enthusiasm and participation. Hence, exponentially improving student success and enjoyment.

During my two years in community college, I have maximized my opportunities to explore psychology. The Psychology in Modern Life course was particularly interesting for me as I was able to dive into applications of different psychological theories as I learn about the factors involved in personality development and interpersonal relationships. As I embark on the next step of my educational career as a transfer student, I strive to build upon this foundation as I deepen my understanding in the psychology of children with hopes to tackle educational issues from its roots. I am eager to build a preschool academy with its own child-centered and developmentally appropriate curriculum where students can build a strong foundation in learning and life skills that help them thrive in their day-to-day lives. I believe that these years are crucial for a child’s well-being and development where the right balance of play-based learning and structured learning experiences is necessary to promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.

At Cornell University, the Human Development major will provide me with a strong foundation in behavioral science while providing me the opportunity to explore the social, cultural, biological, and psychological development of humans throughout the course of their life. The emphasis of the roles of social institutions and their environment on the development of individuals will provide me with the courses needed to support my aspirations in childhood development and education. With the HD1155: “FWS Playing to Learn” course, I will dive into how toys, games, and media shape a child’s learning from infancy all throughout childhood. The HD3110: “Educational Psychology” will supplement that with the application of psychological principles and concepts to facilitating children’s learning. Pairing my studies with a psychology minor would be an excellent complement to Human Development as I gain a deeper understanding of how individuals think, feel, and behave throughout different stages of life. This will allow me to understand the varying personalities and behavior of children and how to cater towards each individual need.

Earning a bachelor’s degree in Human Development with a minor in Psychology would be of great advantage towards the career path I aspire to take on – transforming the young lives of future generations to come. At Cornell University, I will continue to nurture that seed within me through experiential learning and interactions with passionate individuals, better preparing myself to impact the lives of future generations to come.