

October 20, 2021

**Applicant: Lisa Le**

Dear admissions committee,

My name is Lisa Le and I was born in Denver, Colorado. I am the oldest of three and was raised in a Vietnamese household in Minnesota. My parents immigrated here from Vietnam when they were young teenagers, and they did not have the chance to attend college due to financial setbacks. Recently, I graduated with my Bachelors in Biology in December of 2019 from University of Colorado Denver. Currently, I work as a dental assistant at Rocky Mountain Dental Group and Implant Center. I have been working here since March of 2021, and it has evoked some interest for the dentistry field.

Since my siblings and I grew up in a Vietnamese household, we were taught to speak Vietnamese and English at a young age. When each of us entered first grade, our parents enrolled us into a nonprofit Sunday school, that was taught at a temple, to learn Vietnamese. This helped us become more fluent with Vietnamese since now we are able to not only speak in Vietnamese, but also to read and write. As the years went on, I was able to complete all the classes offered. This was one of my greatest accomplishments, and it also opened up a volunteer opportunity for me. I was offered a volunteer position to be a teacher's assistant. I was a teacher's assistant from 2012 to about 2017. This allowed me to give back to the community, and help those who were interested in learning Vietnamese and about the culture. Not only did this give me the opportunity to give back to the community, it also taught me many life skills. It taught me how to be patient, teamwork, and problem solving skills. When I moved to Colorado in 2014, it was harder for me to help out as much. However, I was still able to help the school by aiding in planning events with my team members, and even being able to assist when I was back in town.

Since I was not able to volunteer there as much when I moved, I have tried to do some community service in other areas that did not need as much commitment. I have helped out at local food shelters by collecting canned goods and nonperishable items to donate, and I have also helped serve and package meals at Feed My Starving Children. Going to school full time and working full time has made it a little more difficult to do other things, but during breaks, I would dedicate some of my time into some community service work.

One of my hobbies that I feel that contributes to my decision in dental is my artistic side. I like to draw and paint when I have free time. I feel like this contributes to my interest in dental because I see dentistry as an art. Teeth are small canvases that can be worked on and admired. Each process has its own technique whether it be cleaning/ keeping up with hygiene, doing composites, placing implants, or even placing on crowns. All the fine details that we use in art can be applied to these dental procedures. It takes time and patience to make things perfect. Not only does art teach you about paying attention to the small details and having patience, it also teaches you all the fine motor skills needed in dentistry. Art is not the only thing that contributes to my want to pursue dental, but also the wanting to help others. I have always wanted to have a career where it helps others and makes a difference in the world. Many people do not know how important dental hygiene is to your overall health because of the lack of education. I want to be able to play a role in that by helping educate others, and helping them maintain their dental hygiene. Oral health is very important for maintaining overall health since it can contribute to many diseases and/or conditions. Having the motivation of helping others paired with the fine motor skill acquired has made my decision to want to pursue dental hygiene.

Thank you,

Lisa Le