One experience I have had which has contributed to my desire to further my education is being drum major in marching band. I had the opportunity my junior and senior year to be one of the drum majors for marching band. I have been in band since 5th grade, and I play percussion. I also am drumline captain this year for marching band and have been first chair percussion for two years. Being drum major has given me the opportunity to see a different side of music. I get to see the band in the big picture and understand things on a bigger scale than just my one instrument and part that I am playing. Not many people are able to understand music in a way where you can see how things work on a bigger scale and be able to adjust one small part to get a completely different sound out of the band.

At the beginning of this school year, I was torn between two different career paths. I had wanted to be a veterinarian since middle school. I was set on caring for animals, and I knew it’s what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. But then I became drum major. At first it meant nothing to me. I didn’t even want to be drum major, no one else wanted to do it so I said I would. But after a year of continuous learning of how to be better and how to improve my skills so that I could help the band learn how to improve, I became less sure that I wanted to be a vet. I fell even more in love with music than I had before. Throughout the summer before my senior year and during the beginning of my senior year I constantly changed my mind about what to go to college for. But one day in band class something just clicked in my head and I knew I wanted to teach music. All the confusion went away and the voices in my head bickering back and forth all went quiet and everything made sense.

Being drum major has not only given me amazing leadership opportunities and a chance to improve my own musical skills, but it has given me the opportunity to see and understand music at a higher level, one that teachers see. And it made me want to further my education in music so that I can help young students, like myself, see the beauty and art that music is.