

SPRING 2022

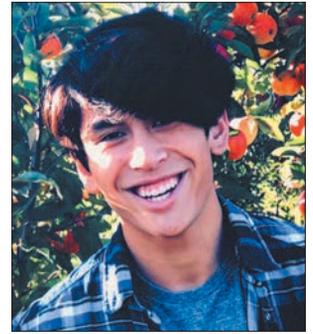
John Belushi Choral Scholarship

RECIPIENT

Norman Aliga

CITY: Wheaton, IL

DEGREE PROGRAM: Associate in Arts



I am not a jock. I am built like one, but I am not. I tried the title on for size and it just wasn't a good fit. But I do love to sing. I love to dance, play the flute, and act in musicals. That is more me. The pressure to conform to traditional masculine endeavors held a firm grip on me up until about freshman year of high school when I decided that I no longer wanted to be someone I wasn't. I left nearly every sport in the past for a more authentic future in the performing arts. Through performing I've grown in my self-awareness, my ability to assess what I have to offer to the world. Executing the formidable task of getting up in front of hundreds of pairs of eyes has taught me that I could handle many different careers that deal with public speaking. Spending hours upon hours a day around other people with varying levels of agreeableness have taught me to be a team player. Singing and playing in large ensembles have taught me to be attentive and listen to others. Immersing myself into piece after piece where I have to introspect and express what I'm feeling through my voice or instruments so that I can move an audience has taught me that my deep well of emotions is more of an asset than it is a liability.

I love to read books spanning across every genre that deepen my understanding of the human condition, which only strengthens my ability to engage with people from all walks of life. I want to make a living out of all these skills I've acquired. I have so many interests that admittedly, it's hard to pin down exactly what I want to be. However, I've narrowed it down to a few: A professor of history, English, or sociology, a therapist specializing in helping teens and new adults, a lawyer who practices immigration or labor and employment law, or a translator that helps network for foreign relations.

I plan to finish my associate at COD then transfer out west. I will most likely be majoring in the arena of humanities or social sciences. I plan on a dual degree with flute performance as well, because before I was a singer, I was a flutist. After, I plan on going to graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. or master's degree, as all of my career interests require me to land a job. I'm aware of how fortunate I am to have ideas on what I want to do. It's just a matter of sorting through and determining what is will be most fulfilling to me in the end. I for sure know that I adore the core subjects of English and history, as I feel my brain is wired more strongly for those than math and science. When all is said and done, I'm certain that my idealism, passion, and courage are going to get me far.