

For the next several months, as part of a highlight series, various Promise Scholarship recipients will share their goals and experiences. Today, Addison Jones, a Butler Community College Culinary Arts student discusses her passion and goal of becoming a culinary professional.

A 2-year program, Butler Community College's Culinary Arts Program is focused on creating leaders in the culinary sector. Jones describes the different classes offered, "There are a few different types of classes that are included in the program; some are book-based, to ensure that you have all the tools you need to excel in the kitchen, and some are in-kitchen classes that work on technical skills, those are my favorite!"

One of her classes, Sanitation Management, allows students to gain knowledge and skills in order to take the ServeSafe Certification. Jones successfully passed the certification test, giving her an achievement that lasts for five years.

While Jones has only been at Butler for 8 weeks, her experiences have been countless. "One cool experience is getting to go off-campus with my classmates and work events that our school gets hired to cater." One such catering experience was at Haus of Brews and was the Andover, KS Rotary Club annual major fundraiser.

Another aspect of college life is getting involved in causes. The BBC Culinary Program students have also used the power of its voice to create change across the state. "Another great experience I got to be a part of was walking at this year's Domestic Violence Awareness Walk on the Wichita State Campus. A group of people from the culinary program at Butler had heard about the event so a group of us went to show support for the victims of domestic abuse and walked a mile on the Wichita State campus."

Jones offers advice to this year's senior class; "It's absolutely okay to change classes/things that you feel aren't right for you. Don't be afraid to bring up issues you have with your classes, especially if they just don't feel right for your learning style! It's completely okay to change your major to find what suits you best!" Jones mentioned that she changed her mind many times before finding her true calling. "Find what you love to do and make it a big part of your life."

For Jones, The Neodesha Promise Scholarship has made pursuing her passion a reality. While many students have to worry about tuition expenses or other costs needed to pay for different degrees, for Promise recipients, "that stress is alleviated." Indeed, as Jones describes, the "students of Neodesha High School are so fortunate to live in a community where there are so many people rooting for our successes."

After college, Jones plans to either work in the restaurant industry near the Wichita area or travel the globe learning about different cultural cuisines to bring back to Kansas.

