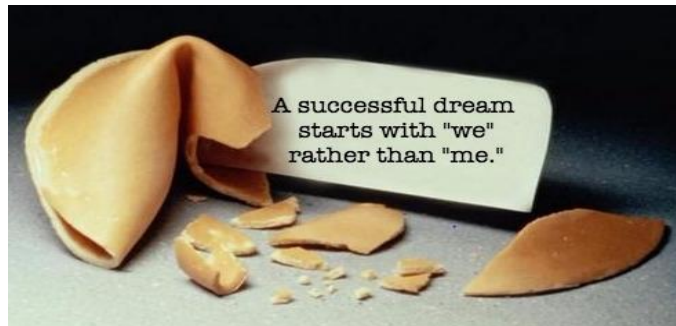


DREAMIN'S FREE ESSAY by EMMA SKOGSETH



I've opened up many fortune cookies throughout the years. However, I felt like I needed to recreate this one because it has stuck with me.

In my lifetime, my "we" has been becoming an advocate for people who struggle. Unequal playing fields tug at my desire to seek out social justice. When I mention to others that my "we" dream is to become a Civil Rights attorney, many times, people assume that I am in it for the money. That couldn't be further from the truth.

When I was in Kindergarten, I was fortunate enough to be placed with other children who needed support from their peers. I've never taken my education for granted. From an early age, I felt a social responsibility to help learners who needed assistance--much like MCC's philosophy for its Student Success Program: "*You won't be doing this alone.*" This leads me back to my fortune cookie and the need to view my dream as a "we" instead of "me."

As I have progressed through public education, I have noticed situations that have been incredibly unfair to students. I have served as a tutor for a child who was hospitalized, and while fighting for her life, she unfortunately had to fight for her right to equal access in education. Some might argue that might be only an isolated local issue, but it's much greater than that. With the current administration in office, another cause that I am a champion for is under a direct fiscal threat; funding for Special Olympics Education is at risk for being eliminated. These are merely two instances of inequality that I want to address when I become employed as a lawyer. My goal is to keep fighting for equity. Equity is a "we."

While at Montcalm Community College, I've engaged in my dreams. The institution has supported me, and I will support my education by sharing it with others. It's a reciprocal process.

P.S. I do have another dream. Instead of inspiration from a fortune cookie, I shook the Magic 8-Ball. The impact will be real and benefit the world. Ready or not, here I come!

