Jessica Brand is a recent University League Scholarship recipient. She always strives to maintain a positive attitude and to appreciate the beauty in the world around her. Most of her childhood summers were spent camping with her family, which fostered a deep love of nature and of travel that she will always carry with her. Jessica describes herself as being very ambitious and highly motivated. Once she devotes herself to a task, she will give it her all! This is particularly true regarding her academic endeavors. She is not afraid to set high expectations for herself, and always do her best to meet them! She very much enjoys going outside of her comfort zone by exploring the unknown. Jessica loves to learn, both in the classroom and from an endless array of other sources. Everyone has a story to tell, and she finds it fascinating to listen.

Jessica is the oldest of three sisters, and she cherishes the close bonds they share. Jessica is from Skokie, Illinois, a northern suburb of Chicago and graduated from Niles North High School. While she grew up in the Windy City, the cold Madison winters still come as a shock! She has played piano since she was 6 years old, and Jessica continues to practice on her own time. Jessica is also a runner, though she recently joined the Ultimate Frisbee club team at UW. This will be Jessica’s second semester serving as the Service Chair for Phi Sigma Pi: UW Madison's National Coeducational Academic Honors Fraternity. It is a genuine pleasure working to plan volunteering events with different philanthropic organizations around the Madison area. Jessica genuinely enjoys and values good food, good people, and good times. In terms of good food, she would argue that dessert is undoubtedly the best meal of the day. As for good people, Jessica is very fortunate to have a wonderful home life and a loving, supportive extended family. Her relationships with my relatives and close friends are some of the most important things in her life. Regarding good times, she tries to be open to new opportunities and to leave room in her life for spontaneity. Though Jessica is often very busy, enjoying each day is important. Jessica always values the chance to make meaningful memories.

Jessica was undecided about what college to attend when she was going through the college application process. Jessica knew she wanted to keep her options open, so she geared her applications toward larger universities with a wide range of majors and programs. In the end, the University of Wisconsin-Madison became her school of choice! It is the perfect distance from her hometown. UW-Madison is a gorgeous campus, the students are friendly, and there are open doors to new experiences everywhere you turn. Jessica is honored to be a part of this fantastic university and the boundless opportunities it offers.

Jessica is very excited about the opportunity to study abroad in Ireland this upcoming fall. She is excited about the possible new experiences her journey will bring! Jessica has taken a number of
interesting courses while on campus. Last semester, she took a course called “Bodies, Diseases, and Healers: an Introduction to the History of Medicine.” It was a fascinating course, which discussed the progression of medical technology from about 460 BCE to the present day. It gave Jessica a completely different perspective regarding the way we think about modern healthcare and our current expectations of medical technology. Jessica also took an Introduction to Digital Media Production course, which allowed her to explore photography, podcast production, video production, and website design. It was very exciting being introduced to so many different art forms within a single semester. She continues to investigate as many opportunities as she can find.

Jessica signed up for a FYG and lived in a learning community her freshman year (the academic learning community in Bradley Residence Hall). She has participated in intramural sports, professional clubs, Relay for Life, and more. Jessica joined a National Coeducational Honors Fraternity, where she has made some of her closest friends. Thus, she believes her Madison experience has been unique in that she has made memories all across campus with many different people. Each avenue she has entered has been different, and all have positively contributed to her college experience in a unique way.

Jessica looks for admirable character traits from many different sources. These pieces of wisdom and inspirational tales combine to create her idea of a role model.

Unfortunately, as Jessica is taking 18 credits this semester, her spare time is very limited! However, when possible, Jessica spends a great deal of my spare time socializing. Interpersonal relationships have always been incredibly important to her. She enjoys the interesting conversations she frequently has with her close friends, and she values the memories they will build together. Having truly meaningful friendships is much more important to her than having a large number of friends. Therefore, when Jessica is not studying, she works to strengthen and deepen her relationships with others on campus.

This scholarship has meant a great deal to Jessica. It has played a significant role in funding her college education, which she is sincerely grateful for. Education has always been a very high priority to my family and myself. Jessica says, “It is an honor to continue learning and exploring at the University of Wisconsin Madison with the aid of this scholarship. I am also both flattered and humbled to be the fortunate scholarship recipient. I have no doubt that many qualified individuals submitted applications. Thus, receiving this scholarship affirms that I am progressing successfully through my college experience. This further inspires me to continue putting forth my best work. I am motivated to prove myself a worthy recipient of your generosity, and I am honored to represent the University League Scholarship”.

Jessica would like to express her gratitude and appreciation once again. This support means a great deal to Jessica and she feels very fortunate to have received the University League Scholarship. Jessica is an outstanding young woman and we are proud to have her as a scholarship recipient!