

Kara Meyer, Zachary Behrman, Brian Healy Earn 2002 MAGCS, John Buck Memorial Scholarships

In June, the MAGCS will award \$1,000 scholarships (one commemorating the late John Buck) to three deserving students. Kara Meyer, daughter of Dave and Penny, Zachary Behrman, son of David and Chris, and Brian Healy, son of Tom and Connie, earned the scholarships based on academic achievement, financial need and essays responding to the following topic: All Americans have many rights and opportunities available to them. Which ones are most important to you?

Here are the thoughts of the 2002 MAGCS and John Buck Memorial scholars.

Zachary Behrman

Being an American means you have many rights and opportunities that citizens of other countries often do not have. Freedom of religion is one of the rights of Americans that I believe is very important in this country. Every American has the right to support any religious beliefs they choose, even no religious beliefs at all. Freedom of religion allows for much of the diversity that makes this country as great as it is. Economic opportunity is also a great part of America. Everyone can dream of success and many go on to achieve that success. The right to free enterprise allows any person with a good idea and determination to start their own business or company and be successful without being restricted by many government regulations. Instead, our



government promotes free enterprise and fully supports it. This is why America is "The Land of Opportunity." Above all other rights, we have as Americans the right to freedom. As citizens of the United States of America, every citizen is entitled to his or her freedom. We can be assured that no matter how the economy is doing or how grim things may seem, we are

free, and our freedom cannot be taken from us. Freedom is why our forefathers flocked here, and it is still the reason many people come here today. That comfort and security of being free is what makes this country the greatest country in the world. God bless America.

Brian Healy

I feel very fortunate for many of the rights and opportunities that I have been given as an American. There are many rights we are given that we all take for granted, such as freedom of speech and religious freedom. However, the one right that I feel is the most important for me is the right I have to decide my future and the opportunity to get a good education in America.

While some would say that you cannot totally control your future in America, I feel very strongly that you

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can. If you have a goal, and you have the abilities to follow up on that goal, then you can do anything in your life that you aspire to in the United States. In many countries, you are bound by many rules and regulations, and you may only have a few options as to what you want to become as an adult. In other countries, many of the people are not even given the proper education to have any kind of productive future. Here in America, everyone is given the right to a good education, and everyone is at least given the chance to succeed.

Another great part about the right to decide your future in America is the fact that any person with a vision can achieve great success. In the history of this country, there have been many brilliant entrepreneurs, from all different backgrounds, who simply set out with a goal in mind and reached tremendous success. A perfect example of this is a man like Bill Gates, who grew up just like any other kid in America, and with his intelligence and vision, has become one of the wealthiest men in the world. This kind of opportunity that all Americans are given is something very special, and it gives everyone hope and a reason to work hard because you never know what you could achieve.

As I previously stated, there are not many countries in the world that give every single person the opportunity to do something great. However, the United States is one of those countries, and I feel very fortunate to live here. I have always worked very hard throughout my education and I look forward to my college education as well because I know that it can lead me on the path to doing great things in my life. The right to set my own goals and have the opportunity to actually fulfill them is the right that I am truly most thankful for and I will continue to try to utilize it to the best of my ability.

Kara Meyer

I believe that all of our rights in the United States are important, but the most important is our right to an education. The right to an education is very important to me, because education is a powerful resource that helps mold who we become and how we conduct ourselves in society. Having an education gives man, woman, youth and child their own freedom to think as abstractly or as simply as they wish. I also believe that receiving an education is a way of preparing each of us to be able to make our own decisions on who we are as humans, and to secure those rights. The education process not only gives us knowledge from books, it gives us valuable knowledge on how to interact with others and respect others for their ideas. Every person is born with a great amount of potential, and by going through the education process, we are able to discover our potentials and build upon them. I feel that the education that I have received thus far in my life, has been a big influence as to the career and life path I want to pursue in the future. I would not be where I am today if I was denied the education process that has helped to mold me into the person I now am. As I continue my education at the University of Illinois, majoring in agricultural education, I realize how lucky I am to have had the opportunity to attend the great schooling systems in this nation. There are many people in this world that did not have this opportunity. In turn, I would like to be able to be a part of this great system and help the future generations receive the same opportunity for education as I have had. I want to help others see the potential that they possess inside of them. Every person is entitled the right to an education no matter their gender, race, ethnicity, or religion. Every right given to us as Americans is important, but to me education is the most important right a citizen of this country can have.



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