



Story Miller

Eastern Oregon University

Age: 19

Year: Sophomore,

Major: Multi-disciplinary studies, honors program, Minors in Elementary Education and Math Studies

Goal: to become an elementary teacher, specializing in math

The stories differ on how Story got her name. Her father tells her that it was because she was born in the middle of a Wyoming winter storm, and her arrival itself was a story. Story Miller's arrival to EOU is quite an impressive story too. As valedictorian of the high school near her hometown of Richland, a small farming and ranching town near the Snake River, Story's family and community were excited to see her graduate and aspire to her dreams. She was proud to be accepted in the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and left in June, immediately after graduating from high school. However within months, she was diagnosed with asthma and honorably discharged, ending her plans for a career in the military. It was difficult, but Story quickly reshuffled her dreams and took a new ship to EOU, where she was offered the University Scholarship for her impressive academic achievements. She knew she would love to teach, remembering a grade-school teacher named Larry Swanson who came to her small community from Tigard, and whose innovative teaching of math changed her own and many others' perspectives of themselves and their abilities. Story remembered how that newfound confidence infused her ambitions for years to come. She decided that she wanted to give that gift to other students, and embarked upon the teacher preparation program at EOU, specializing in math. Tuned as she is to good teaching, she has found a wealth of it in EOU's multidisciplinary studies program. She speaks highly of Dr. Michael Puls' ability to engage a diverse classroom of learners in collegiate math, and she loves her program's hands-on focus on applying the knowledge she acquires. In addition to her coursework, she tutors math on campus, works with academically "at-risk" 6th graders off campus, and for her senior project, will further her studies on communicating math to diverse learners. She is now looking into participating in one of EOU's study-abroad programs in Ukraine or Africa. She hopes to perform a teaching internship abroad, another fitting adventure for a young Oregonian who seems to thrive on tackling challenges.