

Carmen always planned on attending The University Oklahoma because of its highly esteemed medical program. However, after attending a college fair with nothing in mind other than a day out from school, Carmen met a recruiter from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and changed the fate of her college journey.

"It's kind of a funny story. I filled out an application and Calleb Mossburg, a then recruiter, now Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, was actually at the table and he saw my application and yelled at me from across the room to come over. He told me what Northwestern could offer as far as scholarships and it's something that no other university in Oklahoma could do," Sanders said.

Carmen knew she would be racking up significant school debt with future plans of attending medical school. Because Northwestern could pay so much of Carmen's education, it was the logical choice.

"Northwestern has paid for my entire undergraduate education. I don't have to pay anything and while I'm working I am able to put extra money away and start a fund building up for medical school."

Carmen came from the small town of Seiling, Oklahoma and was raised on a farm. Moving to Alva was a jump from rural Seiling.

"Coming to Alva was a big step for me because it was a lot bigger than the town I grew up in, which is different for a lot of students."



After visiting with recruiters, Carmen felt they were truly invested in her and her education, and that carried over into her thoughts about Northwestern.

"Whenever recruiters from Northwestern would call me, they were so genuine and so interested in me and who I was and I felt they really wanted me to be here," Sanders said. "When I got to Northwestern I realized that, that's the atmosphere here. It's very real, very friendly, and very personable."

When asked what scholarships have done for her, Carmen smiles and says, "This may sound cliché but they have helped me follow my dreams. When I was growing up I knew that I probably wasn't going to get a lot of financial help from my family, as far as getting me through college and paying for medical school. It was all on me."

Carmen Sander

Class of 2014



Carmen believes it's important for older generations to understand the importance of education for younger generations and she is thankful for those who already do.

"I want to say thank you, not only for helping pay for me to come to school, but many of my friends have scholarships to Northwestern and they are coming because of those scholarships. If those scholarships weren't there, they may not be here."

Carmen is in the process of applying to medical school and feels very confident that she has been prepared well for this next step.

"I feel overly prepared for medical school. The science department is incredible and I have all the extra benefits. I've made relationships, I've been able to go out and get involved, again all without having to pay for it. That's something you can't put a price on."