

Patrick Driskill, a senior graduating from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in May of 2014, didn't even know Northwestern existed.

"I was actually headed to Scottsbluff, Nebraska for a mission trip," Driskill said. "We were close enough to Alva and there was an ad on the radio for Northwestern. I got on Google and saw they had a new Agriculture Education program. This interested me."

Patrick knew he wanted to pursue a career teaching in agriculture because of an influential ag teacher he had in high school.

"There was a defining moment for me," Driskill said. "I had trouble reading out loud and my teacher told me everyone is going to struggle with something, and everyone is going to be great at something. The goal was to find that something that I was great at and for me that was showmanship."

Patrick had planned to attend a junior college and then transfer to Oklahoma State University. However, after completing more research, he decided to attend Northwestern.

"I thought...Northwestern is a four year university and I can get my degree. Let's do this!"

Patrick moved to Alva on a Thursday not knowing a single person.

"I sat in my dorm room and thought, well, I am going to be here for four years, it's time to make friends."

Patrick had no trouble making friends through his time living in the dorms.

"This is going to sound weird, but I loved living in the dorms. It's such a socially charged atmosphere. Anytime you want to hang out with somebody, someone is there."



Patrick quickly became involved in the Ag Education program and soon became president of the Aggie Club. This allowed him to receive scholarships.

"Scholarships have helped me tremendously," Driskill notes. This is extremely important to Patrick because he was raised in a single-parent home where money wasn't always readily available.

"Sometimes my mom got paid on the 15th, and on the 14th there was a dollar and 40 cents left in the bank account. Sometimes we had to wait on the things we wanted, but my mom definitely hustled to make things happen."

Through scholarships, Patrick has not had to take out a single loan.

"I am happy to say that I am a senior in college and up to this point, I am completely debt free." Patrick said he is excited to know that he will receive his diploma and he won't owe a dime.

## Patrick Driskill Class of 2014

Just like Patrick's Ag teacher helping him reach his full potential, he believes his donors are doing the very same thing. Patrick believes the donation is an investment in his future, and that of his future students.

"It's kind of like a nod, them saying you're doing ok but I want to help you out more," Driskill said. "I don't know these donors and I may never know them, but I feel that by them giving, they believe in higher education."

When asked what he would like to say to his scholarship donors, Patrick doesn't feel like a simple 'thank you' is enough.

"I don't really feel like thank you covers it. Finances were something my family struggled with because of a single income household," Driskill said. "I was very aware at a young age the dollars and cents of it all."

The scholarships he was awarded have taken the burden off of his family's shoulders financially. That, Patrick says, is a wonderful blessing that he hopes he can one day give in return.