

Can I handle the changing seasons of my life? This was a question I asked myself at the beginning of my senior year of high school. I was pondering the idea of attending a college in the busy city of San Francisco, California. Coming from a small town in Nebraska, this idea was frightening. As months faded away, I asked myself if I would truly be happy living thousands of miles away from my family. One December day I watched the snow as it fell softly onto the green leaves outside my window. At this point I didn't know if I could leave this beautiful state, but the California sun kept calling my name. I felt like I needed guidance; I needed someone who could help me decide on the right choice for my future.

"This choice is yours. I will do anything I can to help, but ultimately this is your life, your future, and your decision." These were the wise words from my high school guidance counselor. Through the process of deciding which college fit me best, my counselor didn't only help me because it was her job, she helped me because she truly cared. She gave me an intimidating blank piece of white paper and a pen and proceeded to tell me to weigh out my options. She talked me through costs, family situations and my major. After considering my options for a couple weeks, I walked back into her office. I didn't have to say a word. She smiled and said, "You made your decision, didn't you?" She had truly gotten to know me as a person through this process. She even guessed which college I had selected. She knew exactly where my heart was. My heart was, is and will forever be in Nebraska.

The college I chose is right here in the state that I just cannot yet leave. My guidance counselor then began to help me with the application process. She sat there with me as I filled out my name, my desired major and printed out my transcript. After I signed

my name, she leaned over to give me a hug and said, "I believe you made the right decision, sweetie." I knew at this point that I couldn't have made this decision without her. I am very thankful that she was able to point me in the right direction by encouraging me to follow my heart. My counselor is a great person, a helpful instructor and an amazing friend.