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“How will an international education help me make a difference in the world?”

All of us heard the phrase “You learn something new every day.”, but many of us forget that we also have the opportunity to teach something new every day.

Had I not come to the United States, I would have never learned about cognitive science. Now, it is my major and I seek every opportunity to educate my peers about the discipline and what I learn from it on a daily basis. Cognitive science is the science of the mind as an information processor. It integrates multiple areas including neuroscience, psychology, linguistics, philosophy, computer science, artificial intelligence and anthropology. Therefore, what I learn in class is easily applicable to everyday life; let it be human relationships or the best advertising strategies.

I have not only gained a special perspective through my area of study, I also had the honor of leading the Book Club, the Global Living and Learning Community and the International Club on campus, hence, meeting others from all around the world. Meanwhile, I was hired as a residential assistant on campus, giving me an opportunity to learn how to help people in need. My co-curricular activities have been invaluable for me to gain confidence in my leadership skills.

Cognitive science is, though, not unheard of in the scientific community of Hungary, my homeland, it is not taught at the undergraduate level at all. My plan, when I graduate from the University of Evansville, is to get a PhD and aid my country to live up to its potential. Having lived abroad, I have acquainted myself with many individuals who think of Hungarians dearly. The Hungarian education system has fed many talented individuals to the

world, but is in need of an update and new resources. I think that I have the necessary and sufficient capabilities, on both interpersonal and professional levels, to give back to my country and assist in reforming our education system; in such a way that it can be equipped for the 21st century.

My international education has opened my eyes to the world of opportunity that lies in front of every one of us and is now preparing me to take on my chosen path. I would have never dared to have such ambitious goals of educating and leading people, but my experience as an international student in America has shown me that I can reach as high as I am willing to work for. These experiences of my international education had led me to believe that I *can* make a difference.

I started with taking on a life-changing experience myself, in America. After completing, I will be empowered with knowledge of science and leadership to show my fellow countrymen, in the heart of Europe, that they do have the same abilities of making the world a better place. I will pass knowledge I gained in America so that others can share it, too.

Word Count: 481