

Peter Martin Award Essay

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To explain my motivation for wanting to become a massage therapist I would like to provide a brief backstory to speak about my career prior to enrolling in post-secondary. For the last 8 years prior to starting at Mount Royal University in January of 2018 I worked for myself running a training facility for miniature horses. In addition to this I gained my Equine Massage and Equine Vertebrae Realignment certificates in 2013. As a professional trainer, I specialized my massage and realignment techniques for miniature horses. I expanded my business throughout Canada and the United States where I would compete in horse shows as well as perform Equine massages. This is where I initially learned how important massage is and all the benefits associated with it. Watching horses increase their performance with ease because of something I had done for them was an incredible feeling and very eye opening. Eventually all things come to an end and my career as a professional horse trainer was halted. I struggled with what to do next but, while reflecting upon my previous job experience with over 10 years of customer service I knew that I enjoyed helping people. I wanted to have a fulfilling career where people could benefit from my abilities and with a lot of thought I began to believe that massage therapy was the correct path for me. Massage therapy appealed to me in several ways; I have always been interested in anatomy and the human body, and I have always wanted to help people much like how I enjoyed helping horses in my previous career. I was already experienced in being an independent contractor so I thought it would flow nicely moving from horses to humans allowing me to become an effective massage therapist.

My goal as a new therapist is to be as effective and efficient as I can be. I know that I still have many things to learn and I am looking forward to the continuous education and challenges along the way. I want to be able to help improve the quality of life and educate my community, while continuing to hone my skills and open my mind to all possibilities. I like taking a full 360

degree look at each person I see. Learning their chief complaint and considering their daily activities helps me develop a full treatment plan for each individual catering to their specific needs and abilities. While consulting with other massage therapists outside of school the MTAA was spoken very highly of. After doing my own research and conversing with the MTAA representatives at our career fair I determined that my own morals align closely with the MTAA. I admire the MTAA for their insured student membership opportunity that included restrictions, for the protection of the public as well as the therapists. I am glad to be a part of an association that would hold me to the highest standard and help set me up for success. I feel that the MTAA was the right choice for me.