

Republican Club of Sun City Anthem

Essays by the 2017 Scholarship Recipients

Haley Roser and Serrina Nasrollahi

Each year the RCSCA awards scholarships to outstanding UNLV Republican students. For 2017 the RCSCA awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to UNLV students Haley Roser and Serrina Nasrollahi. Following are the essays that Haley and Serrina submitted for the scholarship contest.

Haley Roser



Hello my name is Haley Marie Roser. I am from the small town of Loomis, California and moved to Las Vegas last fall to attend UNLV. I am currently a nursing major in my second semester at UNLV. My journey as a conservative began at a very young age while being raised by my conservative grandparents. Many of my important values instilled at me from a very young age came from their conservative values. Growing up, every night after dinner we would watch the news and have political discussions where my grandfather would explain to me the political issues occurring in our country and the world. Those same late night conversations between my grandparents and I helped develop my passion for politics and being a conservative.

Being from a conservative town I wasn't exposed to many liberal views until I moved to Las Vegas. Moving to Las Vegas has solidified by lifelong conservative values especially after volunteering at the November 16th Presidential Debate hosted by UNLV. My first term in college with so much political turmoil occurring in the country tested my conservative values but ultimately strengthened them. For example, while wearing my 'Make America Great Again' hat around school I faced political scrutiny from my peers but instead of taking the hat off I continued to wear it because I am a proud conservative and I will not hide my values to conform to my peers.

While often faced with confrontation with my peers and teachers about my conservative values I took the high road which to avoid fitting the fake stereotype a lot of the media and social media have portrayed conservative. Moving forward, my goal is to make a bigger impact on campus through conservative organizations. I think that it is important for young conservatives to have a voice on campus, especially a liberal campus, and I hope to one day strengthen that voice through my campus involvement with the conservative organizations.

Serrina Nasrollahi



My journey in becoming a young conservative student in America starts with an incredible story and noteworthy legacy far beyond my own. My father's story has ignited a fire in my heart that has forced me to educate myself as much as possible and question the thoughts and opinions that have been presented to me on a constant basis. With graciousness and acceptance, I have come to understand the reason why I truly am an American conservative. It is my father's beginning, however, that has allowed me to become so fortunate in making such a discovery that has changed my life in ways beyond what I have ever expected.

My father was born in Tehran, Iran. Being a young child experiencing life at the time of the Iranian revolution, he witnessed and experienced unspeakable things. At the age of 17, he was forced to make the hardest decision of his life. Being faced with religious persecution, he made the decision to escape his home country and leave all that he ever knew to avoid facing certain death. After escaping Iran and leaving behind months of hunger and distress, my dad finally made it to one of the U.S. Embassies sponsoring Iranian refugees in a bordering Middle Eastern country. To this day, America is the best thing that has ever happened to my father and he will be the first person to tell anyone that.

Just three years ago, my aunt was let out of an Iranian jail after being imprisoned for 7-8 years for acts punishable by the Iranian government (being a Sunday school teacher for a faith other than Islam). I still remember the day that my father and grandmother received the call announcing her release. It was special for two reasons. Primarily, I would finally get to meet my aunt. I had been waiting years for that moment and the pure joy emanating from my father and grandmother's

hearts was something my sister and I had been longing to see our entire childhood. But, beyond my family's relief, I also made one of the biggest decisions I had ever made in my life: I became a conservative.

Telling others I am a conservative has been nothing short of controversial, especially when using this story to support it. People are usually confused and don't really know how to interpret my logic. Here are just a few examples of the reactions I have received in the past two years:

"How can you be Persian and support the Republicans? You must disappoint your family."

"If your father's story is so important to you, why aren't you a Democrat? The democrats are the ones who represent American minorities."

"Doesn't anything Trump says, or has said, offend you? If so, why do you support his party?"

Quite honestly, it is these reactions that have led me to become a conservative in the first place. Often, however, this is usually what I come around to telling people:

I am a conservative because I support freedom of speech. I am a conservative because I support the logic and implementation of the 10th Amendment (my favorite amendment) that enforces states' rights to choose. I am a conservative because I do not believe that government funded programs lead to high success rates. I am a conservative because I want safety and prosperity for our country. I am a conservative because I want a strong military and a president who is going to enforce laws and military command that will support this country. I am a conservative because I do not believe in a globalist economy. I am a conservative because I believe in the Constitution and want it to be interpreted as it is, the most inclusive government document of its kind ever established in human history. I am a conservative because I don't want the government coming near my ability to have the thoughts and opinions I have. And, most importantly, I am a conservative because I see the future of this country falling to pieces and I refuse to allow what happened to my father's birth country happen in the greatest country on the planet.

Answers like these usually lead into in-depth explanations leaving my fellow acquaintances dumbfounded and virtually unhappy with my response, but it is these experiences that have changed my life and made me a better student, citizen, and daughter. Being a conservative has made me the subject of great ridicule, but

it has also given me the opportunity to recognize the importance of controversy in a democracy. Being a Persian conservative, I have learned that there are others in this country just like me who are afraid to speak out of fear for being ridiculed just as I have been. Though it may not seem common to many Americans, these feelings are exactly what my grandfather experienced before he was wrongly denied a heart transplant by the Iranian government because of refusing to convert to Islam. It is because of these acts and intolerant opinions that I will continue to fight and preserve this nation's conservative values. Luckily for me, my preparation is in being a curious and rebellious conservative, while my fight is in being an active American voter. And this time, I might add, we won.