

AIL Achievement Scholarship



Photo courtesy of Ashley Gatchell

AIL is pleased to recognize Ashley Gatchell as this year's AIL Achievement Scholarship recipient. A junior from Epsom, N.H., Ashley is pursuing a major in business administration with a minor in finance and accounting.

When she began her college search in high school, Ashley knew she wanted to attend a smaller college. After visiting CSC, she was confident it was the place for her. "I toured campus and I'm not sure what it was, but I just felt like I fit in here," Ashley said. "It just felt right." Since then, she has been finding her place and making her mark.

Ashley's passion for community service shines through even in a brief conversation. She participated in her high school's chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA) and wanted to continue to make an impact during her college years. At Colby-Sawyer, she has been a member of the Community Council, and she currently serves as vice president of the Community Service Club. The club is busy rebuilding after being stymied by COVID-19, but she is excited about recruiting new members and connecting with local organizations.

In addition to her service to the community, Ashley is very dedicated to her coursework and has earned membership in the Wesson Honors Program.

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Though she initially came to CSC to study nursing, math is a strong suit and, after a semester, she changed her major. "Math has always been a favorite subject that I've done well in, and I've learned that I like accounting a lot," she said. Following a positive experience working with a local accountant during last year's tax season, she decided to add an accounting minor for her final two years.

In the true spirit of AIL, Ashley has also taken advantage of other educational opportunities just to satisfy her curiosity. This past summer, she studied in Ireland for three weeks. "I took a course on Irish Folklore and Traditions, and it was an amazing experience," she said. When she was not in class, she enjoyed exploring the coastline of Ireland, especially Galway.

Ashley is not sure yet what the future holds after graduation. She would like to earn her master's degree, continue building her skills and find ways to serve her community.

--Sarah Jenness