

## **Greater Cincinnati Collegiate Connection Scholarship Essay Contest 2018**

### **“Why Greater Cincinnati?”**

My name is Cameron Middendorf and I would be honored to receive a GC3 Scholarship. I am a current senior at LaSalle High School and I have loved growing up in Greater Cincinnati all of my life! I will be attending college in this area as well, as I will be attending Mount St. Joseph University this fall where I plan to major in Health and Wellness and pursue a graduate degree in Athletic Training. My career goal is to be a certified athletic trainer for a high school or college team, or a health and wellness facility, somewhere in Greater Cincinnati. There are so many great opportunities in this city that I hope to live here for a long time.

During my college search, I mostly visited campuses in this area. I always knew that I wanted to stay in Greater Cincinnati so I really did not even look at colleges outside of this region. So why is this? Why Greater Cincinnati? For me, it is because Cincinnati has it all! It has the friendly, neighborhood feeling of a small town, as well as the economic, social, cultural and academic opportunities of a big city. You can always unexpectedly meet someone new or bump into an old friend, just like a small town, or experience the cultural events of a big city. It truly has all the qualities of a town where you would want to live, work, and play. I have heard it called a “big, small town” and a “small, big city”. Both of these descriptions, I believe, are absolutely true of Greater Cincinnati!

This region has numerous colleges and universities that offer a first-class education in nearly any area of study, just like any big city, but with a small-town feel because of the friendly neighborhoods in the area. Students from all around the globe come to Greater Cincinnati to attend these highly rated programs, such as the University of Cincinnati’s College of Medicine

and College of Law, Xavier University's MBA program, Mount St. Joseph University's Athletic Training and Physical Therapy programs, and The Athenaeum of Ohio's Theology Studies, just to name a few. With so many renown academic opportunities right in our backyard, there really was no reason for me to attend college in any other region of the country.

Greater Cincinnati also boasts a very vibrant social and cultural community that rivals that of any big city without the difficulties of getting around that often occur in the larger cities. From exciting professional sports teams, like the Cincinnati Reds, Cincinnati Bengals, and FC Cincinnati, to the wealth of fine arts opportunities, such as world-class museums, the Cincinnati Ballet and Symphony Orchestra, and Broadway theater productions at the Aronoff Center and Taft Theaters, this region offers the perfect environment to, not only obtain a first-class education, but also engage in community activities that enhance life and learning outside of the classroom.

The economic opportunities here are also a reason that Cincinnati has it all. Because the region has experienced steady economic growth and has a low cost of living, Greater Cincinnati is a great place to begin (and continue) a career. Many *Fortune 500* companies are headquartered in this region, such as Proctor and Gamble, The Kroger Company, and Fifth Third Bancorp. There is a diversified economic base in the area which allows for steady growth. This includes manufacturing, trade, finance, health care, education, and transportation. The health care systems in the area are of interest to me and they are experiencing economic growth as well. As I pursue a degree in health and wellness, this is promising for my future career goals. The regional economic growth is visible and evidenced also by the "modern renaissance" taking place in neighborhoods all around the area, such as OTR, the Banks, Newport, and Oakley.

Other factors that offer even more reasons why Cincinnati has it all include the numerous highly rated school districts in the area, the strong Archdiocese of Cincinnati and its great schools, the beautiful and abundant parks and recreational areas, and the perfect location on the map that this region holds. Greater Cincinnati is literally at the crossroads of America, positioned on the mighty Ohio River, it has always been considered a transportation and cultural gateway between the north and the south, and the east and the west. The climate offers the transition of seasons, and the topography offers a variety of attractive rolling hills and valleys.

To me, Greater Cincinnati has the perfect balance of big city culture and opportunity, and small town feel and friendliness. You can receive a first-class education, pursue a career with a *Fortune 500* company, attend a professional sports event or fine arts event, and meet old or new friends at a local bistro. It is because Greater Cincinnati truly “has it all” that I have chosen to attend a Greater Cincinnati University and plan to start my career in this region.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for this scholarship. I would be honored to receive a GC3 Scholarship.

Cameron Middendorf  
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Class of 2018

