

## ***Worth Every Penny***

Bailey Terebinski

Having the opportunity to attend Catholic school my whole life is something I could never thank my parents enough for. Even though I took my Catholic education for granted throughout the majority of my life, now that I have started my own career and have gotten a glimpse into the reality of adulthood, I understand the sacrifices my parents made and why it was so important to them that I attend Catholic school. I attended Bishop Kelley Catholic School from kindergarten to eighth grade, Powers Catholic High School, and then went on to Aquinas College in Grand Rapids to graduate with my bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Communication in 2014 and my master's degree in Management in 2016. Looking back, I love that I was able to grow in my faith and make friends who had the same values as me throughout every stage of my life, and I firmly believe this is why I have made the most amazing lifelong friends at each institution.

The friends I made at Bishop Kelley are still the siblings I never had and some of my best friends. We always pick up right where we left off. The lessons Bishop Kelley instills in their students about being Christ-like and kind to everyone is something we carry with us wherever we go, which is why I decided to room with two Bishop Kelley alumnae our first year at Aquinas College: Jessica Butler and Carolyn Tuski. College is an adjustment no matter what type of high school you graduated from, and having my two BKCS buddies to come home to every night is part of the reason the transition was so easy and we influenced each other to continue to make smart decisions.

Catholic education has always meant holding myself to a high standard both in and out of the classroom. When I graduated from Bishop Kelley, I definitely felt I was prepared for the next level and when I graduated from Powers, I was more than ready to start my college career at Aquinas College. Attending Catholic school has allowed my knowledge of the history and practices of the Catholic Church to grow tremendously and remain faithful to God throughout my academic career. I believe in Catholic education and all of the wonderful benefits it provides students and their families, which is why I now work at a Catholic institution full-time. For the past two years, I have worked in the Registrar Office at Aquinas College serving the veteran student population as the Veteran Certification Officer and just this month, I was named the new Executive Assistant to the Vice President and Provost at Aquinas College. It is important to never lose sight of where you are going, but even more important to never forget where you came from. My parents and I had an incredible experience at Bishop Kelley and I am so thankful I had the opportunity to begin my journey there.