



Modesty Heath

WWS, 8th grade
Essay Honorable Mention 7th - 9th grades

Ashley Kingdon Reece ***Huron Business Owner***

For my essay I choose Ashley Kingdon Reese and her businesses from Huron South Dakota. I was lucky enough to have the chance to interview her and hear about her experiences owning and operating a small business.

Her business Independent Health Solutions provides at home healthcare for aging adults, people with disabilities, and people suffering from mental conditions. And her other business PRN and Professionals helps provide a steady income for traveling nurses and CNA's. These both help 3 of the many problems that she wanted to fix when she came to South Dakota. One was rural health care meaning there wasn't any healthcare for people in South Dakota that didn't have a town. The second issue that she tried to address was the shortage of healthcare providers, so she looked at alternative ways to offer education for people to become healthcare providers. Whether that be through grants and apprenticeships. And the third problem was aging adults there wasn't enough care for these baby boomers that were popping up.

As someone who has heard about some of the experiences that she has gone through in her line of work. I can tell you wholeheartedly that that job is not for the faint of heart. Like for example you get to watch some of the happiest moments like getting to tell a family member of the person you're taking care of that they're getting better. But with that you also get to experience some of the saddest moments because some of their clientele is older like I mentioned and when you get so old you inevitably pass or you get sicker. So no, her job isn't the easiest, but someone had to do it.

And that's what it means to me to be Influential to help those who can't help themselves and to provide a voice to the voiceless. And inspire a younger generation to do better and make a change in their community. And even after all that She's still trying to expand her impact on South Dakota every day. Recently she made two new purchases, one the old Violet Tschetter Nursing Home in Huron, South Dakota so she could start a covid center and fix the problem of overcrowded hospitals so people with non-covid related issues can get the care they need. And she also bought a plot of land in Florence to build an Alzheimer's home that she will be starting this summer with Lake Area Tech.

This woman has so much determination and drive she inspires me every day to be my most powerful independent self. I am lucky enough to have met her when I did because it's been incredible to see where she was and where she is now. I am very blessed to have someone to have such a strong woman in my life to help inspire me and hopefully others too.