I was born in northern Minnesota and raised on a farm with my Deaf parents and four siblings. I graduated from Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf, attended National Technical Institute for the Deaf for one year before transferring to Gallaudet University where I graduated with B.S. in PE/Health. I have worked at several Deaf schools in different positions over the years. When a grant opportunity came up for me to finish my Masters in Deaf Education and Teacher Licensure at University of Minnesota in 2018, I went all in and am currently in my last semester of graduate school.

I wanted something different in location for my student teaching experience, and I was fortunate that University of Minnesota collaborated with California School for the Deaf, Fremont. Distance learning was already in place due to the pandemic, so here I am, student teaching virtually from Minnesota.

The experience I have had so far has been so rewarding. It has enriched my confidence and further prepared me to teach Deaf/Hard of Hearing students someday soon. CSD's administration, staff and cooperating teachers have been warm and welcoming which has made my journey easier as I try to absorb everything I can learn from CSD.

I grew up playing different sports but basketball was always been my main focus. I played basketball at both Gallaudet University and the Deaflympics. At my age, my focus has turned to disc golf, which has become my new passion. I play year round, in all weather conditions in Minnesota, except for the subzero temps. I also work out regularly with Beachbody's programs. As far as a family activity that we enjoy doing together, we like to travel and camp out in our travel trailer.

I have visited CSD a few times before and have always been amazed with its big Deaf school environment that included plenty of after-school activities and sports. The staff

was always up-to-speed with things that related to Deaf Education and the community, striving to be the best. I appreciate being part of it, virtually, at least. Thank you.