Josie Moore is a junior at College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri. She submitted the following story for us.

My mother always stressed how important it was to do what you love in your occupation. In high school, I was involved in several clubs that required me to do a lot of desktop publishing. I've always had a thing for design and I found I was successful at putting together design elements and working in Adobe Suites. When it came time to choose a major in college, I didn't have any trouble choosing Graphic Arts.

When I was in high school, I was a part of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) and EAST (Environmental and Spatial Technologies). In FBLA I competed in Desktop Publishing. At our high school, EAST was a class that was run by a facilitator, not a teacher. As students, we had our own projects. These projects were primarily anything that the school needed us to create for upcoming events. In my senior year, I also was a part of yearbook, which I absolutely loved. Design was something that I always enjoyed and I definitely wanted to incorporate into my career.

I am very close to graduating and I plan on taking a specially arranged course on web development. Because I attend College of the Ozarks, I'm required to work for tuition. My current work station is in Web Development working as a graphic designer for the webmaster of the college. Because of my involvement in this department, I've been exposed to the need for graphic designers and front end developers in the current industry. My graphic arts major has only one web development course, and I plan to take a specially arranged class on web development next semester. I think the importance of knowing how to create and develop websites is huge when it comes to getting a step up in the Graphic Communications industry.

What Employers Are Looking For

Recently I talked to someone about what employers really want from their employees. I was told that employers really appreciate someone who is well rounded and is able to do a variety of tasks. With technology always changing, it's not the best idea to only focus on one aspect of the industry. A given aspect could be obsolete in a year, and then you're left not knowing anything.

When I first started I didn't recognize the scale of web development. I feel so lucky I was introduced to my new work station. Knowing how to design and understanding HTML is a big deal when you are a graphic designer. I didn't understand how significant web development would be to my career. So many employers require their designers to have experience and knowledge of HTML. After looking at different internships, there weren't any that didn't require some knowledge of code language.

In the beginning of my college career, I thought that I would be a graphic designer that designed jobs that were going to be printed. Now I see that so many jobs that were once printed are now posted online. In order for me to know how to design for the web, I need to acquire other skills I hadn't previously thought I needed.

The PGSF scholarship has made an incredible impact on my education. With the additional funds I was able to pay for a trip to Chicago this past year to attend Graph Expo. I was able to talk to several companies about up and coming technology and innovative equipment. I was also able to make connections for possible internships and jobs. Not only that, but my scholarship paid for my books and equipment throughout this school year. With the scholarship, I didn't have to work as many hours at my

off campus job, and I spent that time putting more effort into my classes. My grades even reflected that change. I'm very grateful I was chosen as a recipient.