

Olivia Sanchez

My name is Olivia Sanchez and I am currently a senior at Central High School with a 3.3 GPA. After graduation, I plan on attending Eastern Wyoming Community College in the fall. I will receive an Associate of Arts degree in elementary education and continue on the University of Wyoming to earn my Bachelor's Degree.

My two loving parents are Michael Sanchez and Monique Schwartz. I am one of four children. My older brother Joseph attends the University of Wyoming and he was the one that introduced me to the county fair so many years ago. I was also blessed with two wonderful little sisters who look at me as a hero and best friend. Rebecca is a freshman at McCormick Jr. High in Cheyenne. My youngest sister, Isabella, is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Carpenter Elementary. My family has always been there for me, from traveling on club volleyball trips to FFA competitions. I can't thank them enough for all the support they have given me my entire life.

When my family was first introduced to Fair, I helped my older brother get his hogs ready for fair. When I turned 8, I was so excited to finally be old enough to wash, clip, and prepare to show my first 4-H hog. The adrenaline of walking my pig down the alley way and into the holding pens was more than I could handle. The excitement of getting my ribbon, no matter what color, after trudging my pig through the show ring was something I looked forward to every single year, even though tears were poured every Saturday sale day.

Over the years, my supervised agricultural experience has grown in so many different directions; by breeding our own home raised hogs, experiencing raising small piglets, and enjoying the true farm life was the best childhood I could ever ask for. Along with raising hogs, I also purchased a variety of poultry throughout the years. The best part of ordering baby birds is getting to put them in cardboard boxes and watching them grow until they are big enough to live outside. The knowledge I have gained from so many great experiences are the joy and satisfaction of responsibility and achieving goals that have been set. I have been blessed with a great upbringing that most people will never have the privilege of experiencing. The life of being raised on a small farm.

I have gained a great amount of confidence being a part of so many wonderful programs involving agriculture, public speaking, as well as livestock production and evaluation. I am a very dedicated FFA member of the High Plains FFA Chapter. In the 2009-2010 school year I was elected to the sentinel and this year I was given the great opportunity to serve as the High Plains FFA President. I have gained incredible strength and personal growth by involving myself with FFA camps and workshops. This past summer it was a privilege to represent my chapter as well as the state of Wyoming at our nation's capitol in Washington DC. Not only did I experience personal growth but also the rewards of being a part of a team to help spread the knowledge of the importance of agriculture as well as community service.

I have taken advantage of the many opportunities that I have been given to be a successful leader such as the High Plains FFA President, a 4-H member, and being an older sister. I have learned so many skills being a positive role model for so many people and I have the power to help make a difference in so many lives. Taking people to greater heights than they have ever imagined. Because, I know even in doubt, good things happen when you believe in yourself. I will be a positive influence in the lives of others, and make a difference in my community. All it takes is one step at a time, and as a leader I have made this first step. I believe that by serving as Laramie County Fair Ambassador, I can continue to grow personally, and step forward and be a positive role model in the lives of others.