

Maya Hillis

on being asked to attest to personal integrity, broad interests, adaptability, and unselfishness...

## Personal Statement on Integrity

The independence and self-discovery blossoming during my collegiate career continuously inspires me to mindfully develop my character and passionately display these growths through actions. Respect, compassion and reliability are valuable components of integrity which I aim to embody daily. I joined Alpha Phi Omega, a national coeducational service fraternity, to build these characteristics and implement them through service to the Lexington community. The University of Kentucky's Alternative Service Breaks program empowered me to lead a service trip for Wildlife Sanctuary Conservation in a different community and has now accepted me as Assessment Chair for the organization. I dedicate my time to research at the Center for Applied Energy Research in order to utilize my engineering education as a tool to better the global community through sustainability. I could continue to list my involvements and justify the integrity behind them, but then why not just hand in a resume and cover letter? I could describe how my personal vow to hold my word is an example of reliability or enthuse about my promise to primarily empathize and refrain from judgement as a display of interpersonal respect. This would be a well-crafted response. This would be misguided. The most important aspect of integrity is an unexpected concept: intentionality. Every day in this life we are confronted with choices. Which activity will we prioritize? What will we do in our free moments? How will we interact with the people we encounter? There are as many decisions as there are seconds. Anyone could make a claim to integrity by listing a few righteous decisions while neglecting to disclose the questionable choices in between. Do not get me wrong, mistakes do not discredit one's character. Everyone is allowed space to grow. However, the truly morally courageous individuals among us are those who do not polish shining moments as trophies of honorability but accept their character history as a complex spectrum of ethical growths. A person of integrity pledges unselfishly to move forward with the whole-hearted intention of pursuing improvement and prioritizing compassionate morality through every single action they choose. I say this to assert that I do not want to be a display case of two or three palatable ethical choices and to also acknowledge that I have yet to achieve ideal integrity. What I can say, with absolute certainty, is that I am dedicated to adapting and growing into intentionality, ingenuity, compassion, and integrity.