



Associated Colleges of Illinois

Rachel Rowlett

Trinity Christian College

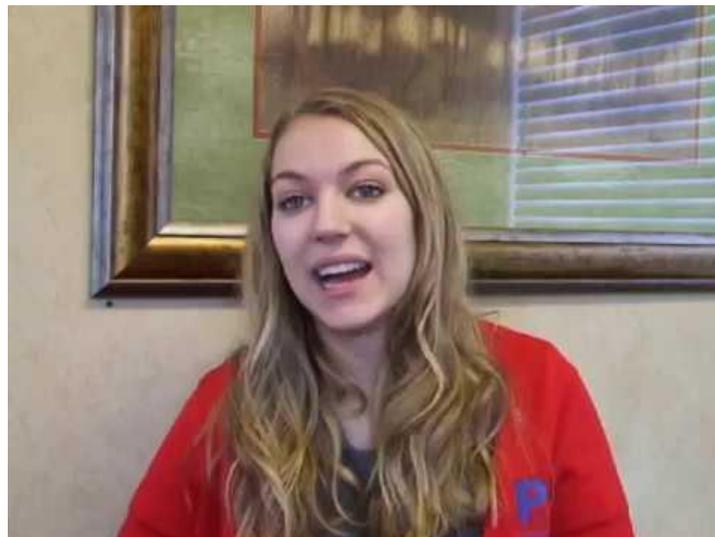
A. Montgomery Ward Scholarship



Rachel Rowlett is focused on a career as a financial planner, someone who can help people out of debt or stay out of debt. Rowlett, the oldest of three sisters from Plainfield, Illinois, is a business finance major at [Trinity Christian College](#). This fall, she will begin her junior year.

At first, Rowlett thought she might be a psychology major and become a counselor. "I missed math," she says. "I'm good with money." In fact, she learned from her parents at young age how to be smart with money. Rowlett gives 10 percent of her funds to Community Christian Church. She saves roughly 20 percent and uses the rest for routine expenses. This is why she financial planning comes naturally to her. "I want to help people organize, help budget and help them feel like they're on top of their finances," she says. "There's a lot of tension and stress when it comes to finances." She learned about financial planning first-hand this spring, working as a tax assistant at P&L Accounting and Tax Service, Oak Forest, Illinois. She also works in the college's financial aid office and is part of the college's music program, playing French horn in a band and woodwind ensemble. And, Rowlett has been recognized on the college's dean's list.

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Rowlett says she was fortunate to be awarded a scholarship by Trinity Christian. Through ACI, the college gave Rowlett the A. Montgomery Ward Scholarship. "I was so thankful that I was able to receive the scholarship and have money taken off my tuition," she says. "It was the end of

freshman year I found out I was going to have the scholarship. I had a big out-of-pocket payment due in the fall, and I said, 'I don't know how I'm going to come up with this.'" A summer job helped but it didn't quite provide enough to pay for tuition and books.

"I am definitely thankful for the scholarship," she says. "The scholarship helped me keep my head above water and move forward. It's a little bit less I have to pay off."

With her math and financial background, Rowlett understands the commitment and costs of a college education. "Coming to college was actually a hard decision for me because it's a big investment," she says. "It's expensive. Do I want to go to a community college the first two years and save some money or do I want to come to a four-year school? I went back and forth. Trinity is very generous, and the ACI scholarship helped me tremendously."

Rowlett says she hasn't regretted her decision to attend Trinity Christian, which has offered her many opportunities. "I feel like I've grown so much in the two years I've been here. Just spiritually and as a person, I'm thankful for how this Trinity community has shaped me as a person."