



In everyone's life, we meet a special person. This person has the power to inspire us, to make us better people, whether through example, words of wisdom, or in the case of one LeBoeuf student, a smile.

On Thursday, December 1st, Fort LeBoeuf's own Kacey Bengel was rewarded for her outstanding essay at the Barber National Institute in Erie. Sophomore Kacey entered the essay contest to receive extra credit in English class and was dually rewarded, receiving an honorable mention among the contests 700 recipients. The Barber Institute, created in 1952 by the late Dr. Gertrude Barber, provides education for people with disabilities and their families, along with support and various services.

During the month of November, the Barber Institute held an essay contest in honor of Dr. Gertrude's birthday. The contest required participants to discuss and/or focus on the concept of how "One person can make difference." Kacey's essay focused on her specific experience with another student at FLB. "Claire and I are pretty good friends," says Kacey. They met in eighth grade, in Mr. Karns's Friendship Club, over at the middle school. They became even closer while training and running for cross-country, Kacey's favorite sport. Kacey says Claire was the only person she knew with disabilities. She understands the struggles people with disabilities go through on a regular basis. "She inspires me to be happy and find the positive in every situation," says Kacey.

Kacey was honored at a reception where she was asked to share her essay. Look for Kacey's awarding winning essay in the Erie Times News throughout the week of December 5th.