

My name is Priscilla Lopez and I attend Riverbend Area Learning Center located in New Ulm. I'll tell you a little about myself. I'm 19 years old and on track to graduate in January 2019. I first attended Riverbend ALC in fall 2016 start of the school year. I'm attending Riverbend to catch up on my credit that I couldn't get because of not being able to attend school after having my child. It was a long hard year for me that year. Even though I did home bound and completed the work, I didn't receive the credits I worked for because I wasn't physically in school. Riverbend ALC has helped me out in so many ways. For instance they offered a credit recovery program, night school, and give extra one-on-one time with teachers. The teachers at Riverbend ALC give me more support than I can ever ask for. They give me the courage and strength to be the person I am today.

I am very excited to be apart of MAAP STARS and happy I got the opportunity to be a State Officer. I'm proud to be State Officer so I can give back what I have been taught to others. I wanted to be an ambassador, to show that not every student who attends alternative schools are not bad people. Many go to catch up on credits or needed the extra help with school because they of that extra one-on-one connection. I want to bring out positive attitudes from everyone and have everyone smile big and bright as I do or even bigger. I want others to know that no matter what

you're going through don't let that stop you from becoming something great.

As for myself, I never thought that I would ever be sharing my story with so many people across the state. I'll tell you a little about MAAP STARS. To start off MAAP is an acronym for Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs. STARS is mean Success, Teamwork, Achievement, Recognition, and Self-esteem. MAAP STARS is a student organization that was started in 1993 to recognize students who have chosen to fulfill their academic requirements in a different setting. MAAP STARS helps students develop employment, academic and social skills and it assists with career choices.

This coming year is our 25th year! MAAP STARS is a program where students can come and have new experiences and set goals. We as MAAP STARS students and officers represent alternative school throughout Minnesota. I'm very happy to be able to represent MAAP STARS this year. Thank You.