

Before I begin, I would like to thank the ladies and gentlemen of the Senate for allowing me to speak today. My name is Crissa Bradshaw, I am a Junior at Idaho Virtual Academy and have been attending for 10 years.

Today I will be telling you why I chose IDVA and how the decision has enriched and furthered my life.

I'd like to begin with why I chose IDVA in the first place. Originally, I went to a traditional brick and mortar school, where I was held back from advancing my education. As a gifted student, I found that most programs (and teachers) were targeted towards students who were struggling, rather than students who were excelling. I was told what I could and could not learn and I quickly became bored as I had already learned what was being taught. It was at this point my parents decided to make a change.

My parents enrolled me in Ohio Virtual Academy, since at the time we were living in Ohio. My family and I enjoyed the program so much that we decided to enroll with IDVA when we moved to Idaho in 2006. I must say that Idaho Virtual Academy has exceeded my expectations and has allowed me to make leaps and bounds in my education.

I am currently taking 3 college courses, 2 with NNU and 1 with CWI, and will be receiving college credits for my work. Next year I will also be eligible to earn up to 18 college credits per semester, which I will be taking advantage of, I assure you. I have also had the opportunity to participate in Leadership Boise Academy, which is sponsored by the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce. Leadership Boise Academy (or LBA) takes a small handful of students, who have been chosen through an interviewing process, and teaches them about leadership and how our current leaders effect and work in our community today. Had I not been with IDVA, this great opportunity could have slipped by without another say.

Idaho Virtual Academy is a wonderful experience all in all. Rather than being stuck with one method and pace of learning, I am allowed to work and learn at a pace that is comfortable for me. This in turn, has let me actually learn my subjects, rather than just memorizing facts for my next test. On another note, IDVA has also prepared me and other students for something one may take for granted.

Technology.

It's obvious that an age of technology is coming upon us, and because IDVA is done mostly online, me and my classmates are now better prepared for that technological shift. We know how to communicate, experience, create and function in this new and current environment.

In conclusion, IDVA has given me more than just an education. It has pushed me, encouraged me, taught me, and overall prepared me for my next step in life. I am proud to be apart of IDVA, and I will be forever grateful because they were proud to be apart of me.