

With a young family of six, my decision to go back to school for a master's degree was not easily made. I was relieved when I got accepted to two nearby state colleges, but when I got accepted to BYU, my decision on where to attend became more difficult. Attending graduate school in state would provide professional networking opportunities, a local internship with future job prospects, and familiarity with local community leaders and mentors. Leaving my home state to attend BYU was just the opposite. Additionally, I worried how a degree from BYU would look on my resume. My home state is very liberal and progressive. Would future employers or colleagues think poorly of me because of my attendance at BYU or my church membership? Would my career prospects be harmed if I attended BYU over one of the local state universities? Fifteen years later, I can proudly proclaim that attending BYU was the best decision I could have made. After completing my degree, I returned to my home state where I currently serve as a city manager. In this very visible position, I pray and strive to be a beacon of truth and righteousness every day.

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