

SCOTT COUNTY ROZ TESTIMONIALS – MARCH 2017

I lived in Japan for 11 years, starting almost immediately after I graduated university, so most of my adult life had been spent in Japan. My wife is Japanese, and my first child was born in Japan. I was reaching a point where I wasn't satisfied with my job there, and was looking for other opportunities. I had several offers in Japan, a direct monthly subsidy from the government for each child (essentially offsetting child tax credits), and a government-run health insurance that worked (and a health care system that is considerably cheaper in general – you should be looking at Japan for ideas there). We lived in a city of 150,000 people, with another city of 400,000 30 minutes away. I could take a train almost any time of day and be in Tokyo in two hours.

Three things made us choose to leave all of that and move back to rural Kansas. The first two were the personal income tax exemption and the ROZ student loan repayment program. I didn't have a job lined up, but I knew there was a demand for skilled individuals with a good work ethic, so I knew I could find something. But I counted on the income tax exemption, and the promise of getting out from under my student loan so much faster, to offset the additional health insurance costs.

The third thing that made us choose to move back was the school system. I wanted my children to be educated in a system where the teacher had few enough students that they knew them all, and where the children were taught to think, not to just memorize information for the next test.

These are the things that brought me back to rural Kansas, and had there been any one of the three missing, I would have made a different choice.

Lee Harper, Network Administrator
HIPAA Security Officer
Scott County Hospital

I came out of college with \$107k in student loan debt, mostly in part to paying out of state tuition at K-State for two years. The ROZ program played a big role in our decision to move to Scott City and has already helped me pay back \$6k towards my loans. I can't express how important this program has been for my finances and my future.

Aurora Gibson Glunz

I am a 25 year-old female who is currently ROZ waitlisted who has a lot of school loan debt to pay off. I came back to my beautiful community to surround myself with friends and family. Having the ROZ program would help tremendously with my financial situation as I am trying to work and get back on my feet financially. Thank you.

Ashlyn Robinson

THE ROZ PROGRAM HAS OPENED UP MORE DOORS THAN I EVEN KNEW WERE POSSIBLE. THE HELP WITH MY STUDENT LOAN DEBT HAS ALLOWED ME TO OPEN A BUSINESS, PRAIRIE WINDS MASSAGE, AND PUT MONEY TOWARD SAVING TO BUY A HOUSE IN MY COMMUNITY OF SCOTT COUNTY. BOTH DECISIONS HAVE CEMENTED MY FUTURE HERE IN SCOTT CITY. BY TAKING THE ROZ PROGRAM AWAY, IT WOULD QUICKLY SLOW DOWN THE PROGRESS I HAVE MADE TOWARD MAKING THOSE LARGE LIFE DECISIONS.

LAUREN APPERSON

After graduating from Washburn University School of Law, my husband and I had several employment opportunities, most of which were salaried positions in firms located in sizeable communities. We both were raised in small rural towns and knew there was a need for attorneys in such locations; however, the small single partner firms in these towns could not offer salaried positions to new attorneys.

With large student loan debt hanging over our heads, we opted for the stability the larger firms and communities had to offer. We quickly found that these opportunities did not exactly suit us and looked at other options. In order to come back to a small town, we knew we would have to open our own business to practice law. When deciding where to do so, we looked into all communities, including those without the ROZ program. We ultimately chose a ROZ county due to the program benefits. It is our opinion that today's high cost of education makes it extremely difficult for professionals to make their way to small communities and be successful. The ROZ program helps to alleviate this problem. We hope by utilizing the ROZ program, we will be successful with our business and in turn, will be able to give back to our community and state.

Ben and Ashley Jackson