Each year, Beta Alpha Psi, the international honors organization for accounting, and the American Institute of CPA’s jointly sponsor the medal of inspiration, which is awarded to the one student whose life story is most likely to encourage others to reach within themselves and find “greatness.” This year they have chosen to honor Huntsman student A. Lucien Butler. The award was presented at the Beta Alpha Psi annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, and includes a $5,000 cash scholarship.

From a very young age, Lucien was prevented from receiving an education and forced to work for his family at home. He was only discovered at the age of 14 and after a court order, his biological father was compelled to allow him to attend school.

Once in school he experienced significant difficulties and struggled to grasp academic concepts at the level of his peers. He overcame these challenges by working with his teachers and taking extra classes.

“One of the great things school did for me was it opened my eyes to what the world was like,” said Butler. “I started to understand that the only way I was going to make something of myself would be through education.”

Butler joined the National Guard after graduating from high school and was deployed on combat missions in Afghanistan. For his service, he was awarded the Purple Heart, which commemorates the sacrifices of America’s servicemen and servicewomen who were wounded in battle.

After completing his military service, he acquired an undergraduate accounting degree from the Huntsman School, performed a tax internship with Grant Thornton, and was very involved in the volunteer work in his chapter and in the community, all the while excelling in the classroom.

He is currently a Master’s of Accounting candidate at the Huntsman School where he holds a 3.9 GPA. He is also a vice president in the USU Delta Omega Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi.