



Stewardship 2020 Displaced Women's Scholarship

Thank you for the 2020 Displaced Women's scholarship, once again I feel honored and privileged to continue my undergraduate education. This scholarship besides paying for my tuition and other college expenses has made me part of an internship and continues keeping involved in activities available on campus and outside in the community.

Thanks to this scholarship I had the opportunity to do an internship at the Dream Center at The University of Utah where I support undocumented or first-generation students and whose parents do not have a status. In addition, it also supports international students and refugee students. This experience taught me how important these centers are and the resources they offer not only to students, but to the entire state in general as they generate access to resources in our community.

Since receiving this award and as a Junior I declared a third major in Latin American Studies. Now I am triple majoring in Political Science and International Studies. I also had the opportunity to be a Hinckley Ambassador at the Hinckley Institute. I encourage students of all levels of study to apply for internships. I organize and create presentations for students to join some of our programs or internships. This year I started coordinating a Spanish group at the Honors College along with the Center of Latin American Studies. As an intern my job is to organize events and communicate with the students offering some cultural workshops and events. Lastly, I am a peer mentor for the Second Year Experience program from the Center of Ethnic Student Affairs. I advise and offer some guidance for first-generation students and students of color. I share with them my experience navigating the university and recommend some resources for them. The University of Utah has given me a variety of opportunities to grow professionally and academically and I can't be thankful enough for all. I feel the desire of wanting to give back and that is why I have been involved in these programs that support first-generation students. Once I graduate I would like to work with local organizations to ensure that first-generation students and other underrepresented communities have the opportunity to go to college. It is important to share resources among the student community and to better inform future generations. I would like to support underrepresented communities. There are many



families that do not have the necessary resources to send their children to college. I want to give them access to the necessary resources so they can go to college. I want them to have the opportunities that I once had. I am not sure what the future holds for me, but I trust that hopefully I can go to graduate school and dedicate myself to work in the educational field, but also work with non-profit organizations, international relations or political analysis.

At the moment in my position of peer mentor I have the opportunity to interact with students from different backgrounds who are first generation students and through the program I provide the resources and tools they need to develop in their area and their career. During my spare time I dedicate myself to supporting senior students in high school and helping them navigate college. I help them apply to the university, share scholarships and other helpful information. Also, I dedicate myself to being in constant communication and explaining to them what they do not understand about higher education. My job is to help them and make their college experience less difficult and more enjoyable. Because I recognize the obstacles that this entails when you are female, minority, and first generation in a predominantly white environment. Being Latina, first generation, and living in a mixed status family of low income has challenged me to pursue my dreams and encourage other girls to go to college, if with so many challenges I could go and get my own opportunities, without the financial support of my parents then they can achieve it too, I'm not saying it's easy, but it's not impossible as well.

I was recently recognized by the Malala Fund and her wonderful team when joining an educational chat and discussing efforts in our community to encourage girls to go to college. We talk about the social and economic disadvantages that women of color have from low income communities and how that can affect us or push us forward to and take our identity as a platform to allow us to achieve higher education. I believe there is a lot to do in our community, starting with reaching those communities that do not have access to the information and resources necessary for their children to attend college. I want them to know that they have access to a variety of opportunities. While continuing my career and before graduating I want to do everything possible to help girls who are in high school, talk about applying to a college or university. When I graduate I would like to continue to support those girls who have a desire to learn more about higher education.