



March 16, 2020

To the Displaced Women's Education Fund of UT 2019 Donors:

Thank you so much for the Displaced Women's Education Fund of UT 2019 scholarship, with the help of your generous donations I took classes in Fall to continue to accomplish my dream to be a certified nurse. This scholarship means a lot to me and my family because it is a tremendous help to cover the cost of non-resident tuition. I am very honored to be a recipient of this award. I want to be a nurse because it is one of the most complex careers in health sciences. In addition to knowledge, it requires dedication and a real desire to help the sick.

In order to achieve my goals, I am studying at SLCC to complete my general studies and an AAS degree in nursing. In 2018, I became a certified nursing assistant (CNA) and through my clinicals, I completed my service hours at a hospice facility. I had the opportunity to work with an older gentleman diagnosed with Alzheimer's who had forgotten his native language: Japanese and his second language: English. I was able to empathize with the sheer frustration of not being able to communicate or speak with the medical staff because English is my second language as well. The ability to communicate allows us to express our feelings, ideas, and thoughts with other people. In healthcare, language is important for medical personnel and patients to connect on a more personal level. This way the patient knows that someone is taking good care of their health and understands their needs. For this reason, I would like to transfer to the University of

Utah to attend nursing school and double major in Writing and Rhetoric Studies. Once I graduate as a nurse, I want to encourage women of color, like me, to pursue their dreams. I want to help them achieve their goals by providing them with resources to better navigate the college-going process. In this way, the sentiment rings true when I say: a person might be small as a grain of sand but with a whole community, each of us can make a big difference. Today, even teenagers can improve our local neighborhoods or establish movements of social equality through their own efforts. Like the story of Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz that inspired the women of Mexico. She was a woman who defended the right to access knowledge regardless of one's gender.

Knowledge and a desire to find the truth led her to study at a time when women were vehemently denied access to quality education. Today, there are numerous stereotypes and gender roles that continue to push women to stay at home, and men to act as breadwinners, to provide financial support for the entire family. I refuse to follow this path, and I want to encourage my cousins to follow suit.

I found the Women of the World organization in Salt Lake, a non-profit that helps refugees successfully transition into U.S. culture and feel welcomed in this country. Through their website, I graciously found their scholarship. I applied with the hope of being interviewed and actually was! During the interview, I learned more about the services that Women of the World offer. As a volunteer, I can do services in many ways like online, workshops and skill sharing, language skill assistance. The first thought I had was that I am an ESL student. I speak basic English and have a strong accent. But Sarah Gibson the office manager of Women of the World said, "it doesn't matter if you don't speak English, it's more about having somebody to talk to them, having somebody who feels comfortable talking to." I thought when I came to the

United States, I did not have somebody to talk to and I had to learn everything on my own. With that in mind, I decided to serve at Women of the World to help other women.

First, I started to help people to apply for their CNA license. I tested within a week to acquire the state license, which gives you two attempts to work through the test. If you don't pass you have to do the course again. I was able to give these refugee women suggestions to practice their problem-solving skills to be adequately prepared for the exam. I often shared resources with them as a student at Salt Lake Community College: information about health, advising, writing, and tutoring. For refugee students, this means that they feel comfortable working with me because we both relate to the difficulties of learning a second language. As a result, I will continue working with different service programs to gain more experience and invite more people to participate in community service.

As a recipient of the Displaced Women's Education of UT 2019, I cannot express how grateful I am for the financial support. I was able to register for the fall semester, helping me complete prerequisites towards the Nursing Program at the Salt Lake Community. Because I did not have to worry about how I would fund my education, I was able to dedicate more time to my studies and earn good grades, which are essential to entering and succeeding in the Nursing Program. In addition, doing service at Women of the World help me with my project at school which requires direct service.

At Salt Community College there is a Civically Engaged Scholars (CES) program which gives me the opportunity to get involved with community partners, institutions, to achieve self-determination, community schools and prepare for preparing you for the workforce by acquiring the following skills, communication, time management, networking. For this program,

I have to do specific and direct service. I am doing service at Women of the World with the goal to help women of color in education. During my journey at the college, I had been involved in mentoring programs to gain experience as a mentor, organizing events and workshops, resources, and building networking. After all, knowing these tools and skills in an effort to give back to my community.

It is good to know that the time you invest in being civically engaged as a mentor can significantly change and improve the quality of life of another person. Coming from another country we have different experiences but it doesn't mean we have to live the experience on our own.

Receiving this scholarship greatly motivates me to keep going to accomplish my dreams. Thank you so much again for this scholarship, my family and I really appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Adriana Zarate