

To: Whom It May Concern:

Re: Thank You-2019 Women of the World Displaced Women's Scholarship

My name is Sarah. I'm studying Business at SLCC. I'm a mom for two kids. I have a Bachelor degree in Petrochemical Engineering from Iraq. After graduation I worked as a teacher assistant at the same university for four years. I was about to apply for a master degree when we decided to leave Iraq because of the bad conditions there, especially when we got threatened because of my husband's work with the US army. We moved to the United States five years ago and we faced many challenges, such as language, culture and my new pregnancy. I tried to adapt to the new life, studied English and worked with AMWAY Company for network marketing. At that time my husband decided to build our own business in Real Estate but what happened was losing everything with big loan. At that moment I felt weak and broken because I couldn't help my family to rise up. Let's say, it was the wakeup call for me to change myself. I didn't think about anything just calling WOW and talking to Samira.

When I met Samira, she encouraged me to take some English classes as a first step and she promised to help me get out of my powerless situation. So I completed the Intensive English class at WOW. Then I applied to SLCC to improve my language, adapt to the community and learn about the educational system in the US as I came from different country and different educational system. In the other hand, the reason beyond my choice of studying Business is a challenge that the thing that broke me one day will rebuild me again.

At the time my husband was working so hard to pay back our loan and provide basic life needs to my kids, I didn't dare to burden him with the tuition fees. Otherwise the Financial Aid program at SLCC offered me a student loan because I have a bachelor degree. Which means for me increasing our LOAN. With these difficult moments and a feeling of loneliness and confusion I found who extend his hand for me with personal and financial support to take my first action forward my dream. I can't describe my feeling when WOW gave me scholarship for my first semester. Can you imagine what does this scholarship mean to me? Simply it means Hope, Power to advance whole family not just a person. With my insistence, persistence and passion to learn, I completed my first semester as one of the student with high grade and this continued to the next semester. Now I'm working in Real Estate as a part time job from home to build my knowledge and get some experience. I'm so happy about my achievements even if it's so small but I know skyscrapers are built from small bricks.

All thank and appreciation words won't be enough to express the effect of this scholarship on me and my family. I'm so happy and proud to get family like WOW who embraced me through my difficult moments and provided all kind of support to make me a successful woman in the society. They believed that I can achieve my dream to be business woman one day and example that women can overcome all obstacles.