

We live in a broken society in which marginalized groups are overlooked in terms of having access to basic human needs such as proper and affordable healthcare. I have an affinity for helping people. The public health attracts me realm because I am given the opportunity to help make changes in my community by looking at the big picture. In this essay I will be discussing my professional and educational goals, financial need, and public health related affiliations as well as my volunteer service.

I have multiple career and educational goals. My short-term educational goal includes completing my Health Science degree with a major in Public Health and minor in Health education in May of 2022. I hope to get my CHES certification close to graduation to further show my public health knowledge. After graduating I am planning to get my certification as a certified nursing assistant or a medical assistant. I also would love to continue my education by enrolling in a dual public health and physician assistant program. My biggest career goal is to be a physician assistant and use my public health knowledge to educate not only patients but also coworkers on community issues and how to help be the change.

This past year has been rough one on the entire world with the breakout of Coronavirus pandemic. In the months leading up to the beginning of the pandemic I had a job, and my mom was working as a flight attendant as she has been for thirty years. When it began and everything shut down, I lost my job, and my mom had to go on a temporary leave. Prior to the pandemic my dad was laid off and has not had a job since. This put us in a very difficult financial situation because I am still in school, and my parents and I lost our incomes for over a year. This scholarship would aid my parents and I in paying for my tuition and housing schools fees so that I will be able to complete my degree.

I have had the great opportunity to be a member of AmeriCorps. I serve as a member at the On Campus Youth Transition program at the University of North Florida. I mentor individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in independent living topics. This position has allowed me to better understand how to deal with diverse groups of people. I am also apart of Eta Sigma Gamma Public Health Honorary Society. Being a part of Eta Sigma gamma has allowed me to part of many initiatives such as being a part of the ospreys against corona virus where we encourage students to engage in mask wearing and proper hand washing behaviors to keep the University of North Florida student body safe and healthy.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to be a candidate for the Dr. Becky J Smith Scholarship. As mentioned before, this scholarship could help advance my career and achieve all the goals I have imposed for myself. Furthermore, achieving these goals will inevitably help boost the health of individuals not only in my community, but also across the world.