

Board of Directors, Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education

Dr. Becky J. Smith Scholarship

December 20, 2022

Dear Board of Directors,

My name is Tala Najjar and I am a senior at University of North Carolina Greensboro majoring in Public Health Education with a concentration in Community Health Education. I have a 3.98 GPA and I have been on the chancellor's list for three semesters. I am writing to apply for the Dr. Becky J. Smith Scholarship.

Health education and health equity are of a particular interest to me because I am an immigrant myself and I have seen the problems associated with health equity in different parts of the world. Despite the major cultural differences between my home country and the US, one similarity that I noticed between these two countries is how health equity is a major issue that can lead to other serious problems such as food insecurity. That's why I decided to engage in community service by volunteering at different organizations with different missions related to health education. I have fulfilled 545 hours of community service in different organizations in my home country Jordan. One of these organizations is Jordan River Foundation "JRF". JRF is a non-profit organization that emphasizes child safety and community empowerment. I have also volunteered at "Tkiyet Um Ali" which is an organization with the purpose of eradicating hunger and food insecurity. I am also currently taking a part in a research assistantship at the Center for Women's Health and Wellness at University of North Carolina Greensboro.

As for my future professional plans, I have secured an internship with the Health Equity Center at Cone Health. I will start working with them in January on a project that involves building a new digital referral system to promote health promotion strategies for Latino patients with diabetes. I am also in the process of applying to get my master's degree in Global Health at Duke University. I decided to do my master's in global health because I want to have a future career that will allow me to take part in finding solutions to eliminate health disparities in low-resource settings around the world through research, education and collaborative intervention.

I am applying to this scholarship because I would like to use this money towards my tuition for my master's degree. I am also a recipient of a Pell Grant because I come from a low income family. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Tala Najjar