

Essay addressing future educational and professional plans as well as a discussion of financial need. Your essay should also provide information about professional meetings you have attended, and your service, advocacy, and organizational memberships related to health education.

My academic journey is a unique one, a path that I would not have been able to carve out myself but by fate and hard work it led me to where I am today. Currently I am an MPH: Social and behavioral graduate student at the University of North Florida. I can understand the five branches of public health biostatistics, epidemiology, social and behavioral sciences, and health policy. Each branch of public health contributes to the way that we study, assess, and address the health concerns of different populations. Through implementation of health promotion and health education I have witnessed the impact of understanding the needs of people and meeting those needs through quantitative and qualitative research approaches. I find joy in improving health outcomes in the community and working with primary investigators who have a heart for making the world a better place.

I work as a patient care VMB technician at Mayo Clinic hospital, an organization that upholds three standards: Education, Research and Patient Care. Research is the branch of health that I am interested in pursuing. They have an amazing research team for various areas of health and Neurology is my area of interest. After working my year mark at Mayo, I will apply for a Research Coordinator position in the Neurology department where we study brain/cognitive responses to medicinal practices. Pursuing a master's degree in public health will assist me in contributing more ways to approach neurological illnesses utilizing innovative methods. By combining public health and research we can develop new strategies and implement better techniques of practicing research. I have seen some of the greatest outcomes in cancer research and liver research and it ignites a passion in me to see those same outcomes in Neuro Research.

In the next year I see myself conducting research as a research coordinator, I see a future of me discovering new outcomes in cognitive and brain responses to medicine. I want to be apart of a team where we can change lives through the primary data that we collect along the way. I have had the privilege to work with Brooks Rehabilitation Neuromuscular Research where we conducted robot intermittent walking for spinal cord and stroke patients. I saw an increase in motor function in these patients when they were attending the research program for about six months to a year. I have also been accepted in the Eta Sigma Gamma Public Health Honorary society. ESG has played a major role in my professional development. I have submitted my first article on "Childhood Behavior often leads to adult consequences" by the Florida Times Union thread and I've been involved with ESG's "Pumpkin spice and Saving lives event. Public Health has exposed me to so many different diverse areas of health, it also exposed me to levels of myself that I never thought were there. As I advance into the best version of myself, receiving this scholarship will support me in doing so. It is a blessing to pursue a career path that I truly love and enjoy but it is even more purposeful when I know there are people who support me financially on my journey. With this scholarship I will continue to strive for the greatness that awaits me and embrace my evolution as a public health professional. It is my goal to change lives through the knowledge and information that I know it hopes that one day we will see a world with better health outcomes.

