

# SCHOLARSHIP

*Goal: Three \$10,000 Scholarships*

## THE PILLARS OF SCHOLARS:

TRUSTWORTHY, RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, CARING, PERSISTENCE, PRODUCTIVE, AN OPEN-MIND, ETHICAL, “BOOK SMART - PASSION - INTELLIGENCE”, AND LOYAL. WE ALL WANT PHYSICIANS WHO EMULATE THESE TRAITS.

*The following excerpts are from past application letters -*

\*My degree was in biochemistry; **at the top of my class . . . I was a know-it-all and admit that I was arrogant about it . . .** after two months into my first year in medical school I would struggle to stay afloat. Falling asleep in odd places; forgetting where I was; memory was slow; reading even slower.

**I learned what it meant to not be the best, what it meant to fail and what it meant to be humble.** It was an ultimate test of strength, and my relationship with God. I realized the full reality of my problems when my doctor came to a **final diagnosis. I was experiencing persistent symptoms from a meningitis-related brain injury, of which I may never fully recover.** With the help of my university, family, learning coach and physician I learned to adapt, to cope with my symptoms, and find the positives in the midst of a difficult situation while successfully passing my classes.

I am astounded at how much **God** was playing behind the scenes. He **knows that the best way to teach me His life's lessons is through a combination of humor and subtlety.** Not many people can say they've had meningitis with chronic effects, been bit by a bat, and been exposed to HPV just months after vaccination all within a short period of time. Working through these circumstances helped me find an amazing counselor and develop effective stress management skills. The little things matter, whether that be a prayer with a patient in a crowded ER or listening to the story he/she has to share. **My main hope in pursuing my medical career is that I am able to use my difficult experiences to truly serve my patients with compassion, understanding and genuine empathy.**

\*\* “Why were your students singing?” Craig, the chemistry teacher asked me with a curious smile. Sheepishly with a twinge of pride, I explained that **my kids were teaching each other cellular respiration through creative performances**, and one group had decided to serenade the class with an original glycolysis song . . . For a split second I felt a pang of loss; I would no longer have these treasured moments with my students after I leave for medical school. Then I remembered with returning assurance **what precipitated my journey into medicine: the night I almost lost my brother, suffering delusions from an acid trip gone wrong . . .**

In exploring the murky waters of long-term recovery with Daniel, my desire to become a Christ-centered physician has only been strengthened. While Daniel’s doctors sought for sobriety, I wanted my brother to experience real, substantive healing - a life not just absent of drugs, but filled with the joy that comes from God. **This is the holistic care I want to provide for others.**

\*\*\* It was my mother’s early influence that first sparked my desire to go to medical school. As a nurse and community health educator she had a passion for health promotion and ministering to others. **I began volunteering in the healthcare field in college and there my dream of becoming a physician first began.**

When my mother was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer I became more intimately acquainted with another side of medicine: end of life care. As I took care of her in the last 8 months of her life, **I saw first hand how important and meaningful whole person care can be.** My mother’s primary physician was a Christian; when every medical option had been exhausted, he was still able to minister to her by reminding her of the Hope she had in the return of her Savior and the complete restoration of health she would receive one day. It gave her peace.