

To CFCE Scholarship Committee,

It is an honor to be able to have an opportunity to apply and receive a scholarship to help further a CFCE member through this scholarship opportunity. My school journey has been on-going for the last ten years. I began my educational journey at OCC. I was a first generation student who was a single mother of a three-year-old child. While I attended OCC I encountered many struggles while completing my AA degree. I was on state assistance, became homeless but never gave up. I was grateful for all the help I received at OCC from departments, staff and even other single mothers. After I graduated in 2014, I stayed working at OCC as a part-time employee. I transferred out to California State University Dominguez Hills where I only attended one term. I had many issues with my son's father constantly threatening me to take him, attending court dates, I could not take on school, work and personal problems so, I decided to take a few years off. In 2016, I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to apply for a full-time job and was hired as a full-time classified employee at ; it was a full circle moment for me. With my job description and position, I now have the opportunity to assist students who, like me, are struggling financially to further their education and meet their goals. After having a stable job and a home, and things starting to fall into place, I decided to return to school in the fall of 2019. I was nervous because I had not been to school in many years, but I knew I had to show my son that it's never too late to achieve your goals. Being an older student, I had to learn how to balance going to school, being a mother, working full-time, and being the sole provider for my family. When COVID hit, I thought I wouldn't be capable of continuing school with all the added pressure, but I did. My father recently suffered a heart attack, which was yet another financial setback for me. He was able to pull through, but he will require open heart surgery once his health improves and is now living with me and relies on me as his caregiver. Being the sole provider for your family is difficult, stressful, and at times makes you wonder if you can even do it. With the pandemic, you realize how important it is to be a member of a union and not have to worry about your job security. I am very honored to be part of CFCE.

Receiving this scholarship would be extremely beneficial to me. With my father's health declining, possible medical expenses, and still providing for my child and attending school, any financial assistance would be greatly appreciated. Taking out loans can be extremely beneficial, but it can also be a burden to know that the money is a debt that must be repaid once I finish school. Given this opportunity, I will be able to alleviate some of the financial stress that I am currently experiencing. Thank you for your time, and I appreciate everything that CFCE stands for, offers, and continues to do for us classified employees.