

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sheneka Atrice Starnes. I am currently a junior at The University of Louisville. After the summer term I will be in senior standing. I have been at U of L since the year of 2000 and have loved every bit of college life. My major is Sociology with a minor in Pan-African Studies. Since I have been at U of L my insight about life has gotten bolder and brighter. I see things in a different way, and that all comes from being in college for these past four years.

I live off campus in an apartment with my eight-year old daughter. She helps me to stay in college because I want to go further in life, to make her life a little bit easier than mine was. You always want the best for your child give them more than what you had.

I also have two part-time jobs. One job is work-study in the Financial Aid office. I have been there since I started school. The other job is America Reads; I'm a tutor at the Salvation Army Portland Boys & Girls Club. I love both jobs but sometimes they are very time-consuming with going to school full time but I will survive.

I attend school all three terms fall, spring and summer and the money for all three terms is very tight. I do get financial aid through the year but most of that aid is loans and with tuition going up every year and the budget for school is staying the same money is hard to come up on. I really want to get away from loans at this point of my life; I'm trying to stay away from being in debt. So with this scholarship that you are giving it would help me in the financial area of my schooling. Then I wouldn't have to worry so much about where I am going to get the money for school.

My goals are to finish my undergrad degree, go to graduate school and get my degree in middle school education. I want to be a middle school social studies teacher. I set my goals high because in August of 1999 I was diagnosed Leukemia in the senior year of my high school career. I was hospitalized for one month. I didn't know what was going on because I was unconscious. When I woke up my grandmother told me that I had leukemia. I didn't know what to think.

My doctor told me that I almost didn't make it through but I did and I'm very thankful. After receiving chemotherapy I went back to school and got my life back. One thing that I promised myself was that I was going to succeed in everything that I did. College was then next thing on my list to do after leaving high school. So now I can say that I'm half way through the struggle of college and I will not quit until I have that degree in my hand.

So again with this scholarship I can have the funds to achieve my dream of never giving up on anything that I started. I will work hard to get do my greatest goal getting where I want to be in life.

Sincerely,

Sheneka Starnes