

Dear Sponsor of the SAC Scholarship Fund:

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the SAC Scholarship. This award comes as a welcomed blessing in a time when a global pandemic has collapsed the economy of many of us, and I am grateful for considering me out of so many deserving applicants. My educational journey has not been an easy one, but in the pursuit of a better future, I have always worked hard to overcome the obstacles in my way and inspire others by showing them what they can accomplish as well.



I am a non-traditional, first generation in college student who came to the United States in 2004. I earned a GED in 2005, and soon after I enrolled at the local college to take some classes to learn English. Little did I know that it would be the beginning of a rewarding experience. It challenged me at so many levels and helped me grow while learning not only a new culture and language, but also a new way to see the world.

In 2008, I started my bachelor's degree in supervision and management and graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors. I was also a member of the International Business Honor Society Beta Gamma Sigma for the quality of my work in the program.

Right when I thought that I had achieved the highest level of education I could possible reach, I started working for a higher education institution. I realized that I could be of greater service if I continued my education. I started a master's degree program in higher education administration. It is right there where I realized that my educational journey had to go through so many ups and downs and difficulties, such as the language barrier, lack of financial resources, and limited access to student assistance programs. It made me aware of the change I want bring with me everywhere I go.

Now, the opportunity to pursue a doctoral degree has opened up. I am excited to keep learning and growing, while sharing my story with other students who may need the encouragement of someone who understands their struggles and has faced a good share of adversities.

Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift, which will allow me to purchase textbooks needed for the coursework in my doctoral program.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Longwell