



Dear Sponsor of the SAC Scholarship Fund:

I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and donation toward my education and goal of completing my doctorate of educational leadership (Ed.D.). I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work for Florida Gulf Coast University and I take great pride in the ability to do so. I enjoy working with the faculty and staff, but most importantly the undergraduate students of this university. As of this fall semester, I have eight classes to complete and an internship, which I am doing this fall. My internship is with Dr. Motley of the Honors College and we will be researching the success rate and differences among students who elect into the college based on merit scholarships compared to the students who apply and interview for a spot in the Honors College. Both Dr. Motley and I are extremely excited for this research.

This scholarship will allow me to do research toward my dissertation. My dissertation goals are to identify the difference of how transfer students transition into a university and the success rates of students who complete two-year associate's degrees prior to transferring and transitioning into a four-year university, compared to the students who start in a four-year university directly out of high school. My experience working in higher education has given me the opportunity to work with both transfer students from state colleges and incoming freshmen leaving high school. I have enjoyed my time doing both and am very eager to start my research. I plan to research here at Florida Gulf Coast University and I am interested in the other state universities in the state of Florida as well. I would like to start with the transition of Valencia State College and the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

About me, I am an alumna from Florida Gulf Coast University, where I earned my bachelor of arts in communication in 2011. My master of arts is in communication as well, from Marist College and completed in 2014. I had the goal to work for the university once I completed my M.A. and was ecstatic when that goal became a reality. Working here is honestly a dream. I have been taking classes toward my Ed.D. since January 2015 but officially began core classes as part of Cohort 5, Fast Track, during the Fall 2016 semester. I am part of the Fast Track, where we take more classes than the traditional students to finish at a quicker pace. This is challenging to balance full-time employment and multiple classes at a time, but well worth it, and again this scholarship will help

tremendously. I absolutely love being in this program and I am very excited to be working toward my doctorate back at Florida Gulf Coast University.

I am engaged and will be married this October to an amazing and hard-working man; and we have small Yorkies as our "fur children." We live in Cape Coral and absolutely love living down here. My goal is to be able to grow with the university, conduct research on student success and watch the institution and community grow with success over the upcoming decades. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity, and thoughtful donation. I promise this donation is ultimately an investment in Florida Gulf Coast University, and I will make you proud. This scholarship not only helps me individually but the university as a whole. I will be able to work more toward student success and research and I hope one day to share this with you in person! I look forward to meeting you in the future and hope you have an amazing day.

Sincerely,

Jessica Lennox