



Dear Sponsor of SAC Scholarship:

I would like to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the SAC Scholarship Award for the 2015-2016 academic year. I was very humbled and surprised to learn that I has been awarded this scholarship as I have worked very hard to continue my education while working full-time and trying to avoid additional student loan debt. This award will greatly assist in ensuring that I achieve my educational goals and proudly walk across the graduation stage when complete.

I received my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication from FGCU in December of 2011 and began working in the Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement in the summer of 2012. Upon the completion of my undergraduate degree, I was unsure as to whether or not I wanted to continue my education, obtain a Master's degree, and teach or begin working with a local non-profit organization. Working at FGCU in the Office of Service-Learning provided me with a 'best of both worlds" situation as I was able to work with students completing their service-learning hours and partner them with local non-profit organizations.

Not long after beginning to work for the university full-time, one of my supervisors suggested that I look into the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program. This supervisor knew not only of my love for students, but also my talent for being able to organize, problem solve, and think administratively. Upon looking into the MPA program and seeing that it offered a course titled "Management of Nonprofit Organizations," I decided to pursue my MPA degree. This program could not be a better fit for me at this time!

Through the MPA program, I have developed a new love and appreciation for administrators and administrative functions. It has been an amazing experience and I have gained a wealth of knowledge from the faculty and my classmates. Participating in this program has reaffirmed two things for me — 1) I still have a desire to be in the classroom helping to grow and inspire students, and 2) I still have a passion to serve. With this degree, my plan is to continue working within higher education in the state of Florida to ensure that we are providing the best educational opportunities for our students while focusing and developing them as a whole person. I am still working currently in the Office of Service-Learning and will begin my first semester of teaching in the spring of

2016. The course I will be teaching is titled Foundations of Civic Engagement and is geared toward creating informed, engaged citizens who understand, promote, and practice service to their community.

Again, I appreciate being chosen as a recipient of this scholarship award. I am proud to know that I am part of a university who continues to be supportive of both staff and students. Being an Eagle has made an impact on my life and who I have grown into as a person. I will value everything this university has taught me as I move into future endeavors.

Thank you,

Kelsey Wilkinson