Opportunity for Change Scholarship

I am a block 3 nursing student, earning my bachelor's degree concurrently through Arizona State University. I am still working fulltime as a lead back office medical assistant for a geriatric internal medicine office. I have not struggled with addiction personally, however, my boyfriend's father struggles with alcoholism and lost his girlfriend and house earlier this year. Sine then he had moved in with us and it has most certainly put a strain on my boyfriend and I's life and I cannot imagine how he feels. It difficult to hear the refrigerator open at 3 in the morning and hear him popping open a beer. It is difficult to offer to get him help and him declining, despite seeing the pain in his glossed over eyes. It is tough knowing that he needs help that he will not seek.

Many people think that addiction is a path that people chose to go down on their own, however, I believe that it is an unfortunate circumstance that one cannot overcome. Addiction is so unfortunate and there is not enough help for those that need it. As a nursing student I was unsure what I would encounter on my mental health rotation. Prior to attending my first day of mental health I was so nervous and scared that I would be caring for patients like I seen in the asylums; however, it was the complete opposite. My heart felt for these patients who ever so dearly wanted to be accepted for who they were and yearned for personal connection. As I sat and held conversations with the patients on the floor my heart ached, it was that rotation that interested me in becoming an addiction/mental health RN.

I would go home and think about the patients, wondering if I helped make a difference in their life. I would find myself thinking about them the next day at work. I don't know if when the patients left, if they would relapse again after detoxing or take my advice and find a new outlook for their life after being in a deep depression. I don't know if the patients are going to make the right choices and/or choices for their life so that they don't see themselves as a burden or problem, or still go through with their previously failed suicide attempt. It was so hard not knowing if I changed someone's mental health for the better, but I know that I loved making that patient feel heard.

Mental health is a hard subject for many to grasp and it is a challenge that each one of us can say we've experienced at some point and time in our lives. Whether it be momentary and situational depression, anxiety, persisting depression, paranoia, feeling of self-doubt or trauma; we've all struggled, just some of us are just better than others and resort to healthier outs other than drugs or alcohol. The point is to choose to be kind to one another because we are all facing some sort of battle within ourselves. I want to be able to impact my future patient's lives and I can only hope that they think of me when they are feeling down. I hope to make a difference by connecting with my patient's and really understanding their needs. I strongly believe that the basis of patient care is understanding the patient as a whole creates the best outcomes and I cannot wait until I graduate and am able to provide care to those who need it.



August 17, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of recommendation for Desiree Chavez. I worked closely with Desiree as her faculty in two of the online RN-BSN program nursing courses here at the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation at Arizona State University. She was my student over a period of 8 weeks during each of these classes. Desiree was an exemplary student in both courses. Throughout a variety of independent and collaborative work, she demonstrated a strong work ethic through unwavering dedication to the quality and timeliness of her work. She demonstrated an ability to work in a team environment both with faculty and fellow students through open and respectful communication. She is able to state her thoughts eloquently, both in verbal and written format, and showed strong time management skills through multiple assignments, making her a pleasure to work with.

The nursing program here at ASU is designed to provide increasingly advanced critical thinking skills necessary for nursing practice in our complex health care environment. To excel in the program, Desiree demonstrated the skills needed to succeed in a demanding and competitive program. Desiree is an excellent scholarship candidate and I highly recommend her for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marsha Grobman, MSN-L, RN, CCRN-K Faculty Associate

Arizona State University Unofficial Transcript

Name:

Desiree Chavez

Student ID: 1217818654

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Arizona State University Unofficial Transcript

Name: Desiree Chavez Student ID: 1217818654

| | | Attempted | Earned | Grade | <u>Points</u> |
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