



## A THANK YOU from your Scholarship Student

**August 2017**

My name is Kara Collazo, a current nursing student at the University of Connecticut planning into graduate in the spring of 2019. I first would like to thank you for your generosity in awarding me this scholarship. I am truly honored to be a recipient of this award.

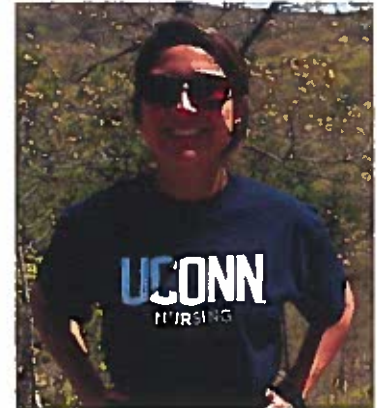
Things have never been easy financially for my family. I have always dreamed of being the first in my family to attend a four-year university to pursue my ambition of becoming a nurse ever since I started high school. I have worked hard to get where I am today and will continue to work hard so I am able to reach my ultimate goals. This scholarship award will aid me in my journey and relieve much of the financial stress that I have had throughout my years attending UConn. I cannot put into words how thankful I am to be a recipient.

Being awarded this scholarship will allow me to continue pursuing my dream of becoming a nurse. I will have less of a burden on my shoulders to pay for tuition and other costs of attending college like books and supplies for nursing school, as I currently work two jobs year round to pay for those things. I will now be able to have more time to focus on my education and gain experiences outside of my academics that will enhance my ability to become an amazing nurse after I graduate; such as volunteering in local healthcare facilities and getting more involved in my community. I cannot thank you enough for giving me this opportunity to do so.

In the future, after I graduate from UConn as an with my BSN, I plan to use my education to gain experience as an RN as well as volunteer my time in local communities as well as other countries that are lacking health care. I would then love to come back as a graduate student in one of the UConn School of Nursing's programs in order to achieve my ultimate goal of becoming a nurse practitioner. I cannot thank you enough for your extreme generosity. I am very thankful for the opportunities I will have because of this scholarship.

Sincerely,

**Kara Collazo**



**Kara L. Collazo, '19**

**Tolland, CT**

Major:  
Nursing

Scholarship:  
The Amanda & Jacob Brax Memorial  
Fund



## A THANK YOU from your Scholarship Student

**August 2017**

Thank you very much for your generosity. As you are aware, college is extremely expensive and your scholarship is a big help. I grew up in China and always dreamed of going to college. However, I never had the chance until I moved to the United States in 2009.

I was born a girl in China in 1972 before the Chinese Government's one-child policy. Even so, the birth of a girl in China has never been a cause for celebration and, like most Chinese families, my parents had been counting on the birth of a son to carry on the family traditions. The pressure on my mother to produce a boy rather than girl was unbearable, and I later learned that there was great disappointment when I was born. But despite all their disappointment, or perhaps because of it, I was given a boy's name, "Tao," in hope that my mother would have a boy in the future. Five years later my mother gave birth to a son.

Growing up in China was difficult. My family was very poor and often times didn't have enough food to eat. My younger brother received special treatment, and we always made sure that he had enough to eat even if there was not enough for the rest of us. The different treatment given to my brother and me reflects the different expectations about what each of us cost and would contribute to the family. My brother's education was conducted under the direct supervision of my father. As a girl, my own education was considered unnecessary. A girl was expected to learn housework chores, cooking, sewing, taking care of children, and other domestic duties. I was stubborn and strong-willed and pushed for the chance to go to school.

I went through elementary and high school in Xi'an, the city where I was born and grew up. My father was a typical traditional Chinese man and thought that high school should be enough for a girl in China. To him, the most important task for a girl should be finding a good husband, not wasting time in college. According to Chinese feudal society's customs, girls were not supposed to have an education beyond elementary school. My father thought I should consider myself to be lucky enough to have gone to high school. But my dream, however, was to attend college.

After graduating from high school, I took a job in a government factory working on a heavy drill press. It was hard physical labor, and I worked at this factory for seven years. In 1997, however, there was a major policy change in China. My factory closed. I was 26 years old, and college seemed like a distant dream. I had saved my own money



**Tao Wang, '18**

**TownNameHere, CT**

Major:  
Nursing (Doctor of Nurse Practitioner)

Scholarship:  
M. & K. Connelly Nursing Scholarship

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and attended adult evening classes to learn English. For three years, I studied extremely hard to pass all the national exams in English given by the National Education Department in Beijing. I also passed another difficult exam and received my English-language tour guide license, which meant I could begin to take English and American tour groups on tours in China. Over the next several years, I worked as both a local and national English-speaking tour guide and perfected my English.

While I was working as a national tour guide in Beijing, I met the American who would become my husband. It developed into a very romantic long-distance relationship. He traveled to China as often as he could but the visits were always too short. The long-distance relationship was difficult and we missed each other terribly. Finally, in February 2009, we were married and I moved to the United States. My life now is so different. I now had the opportunity to further my education by attending college, an opportunity I had only dreamed of while in China. I began my college education at Tunxis Community College in the fall of 2009 and transferred to the University of Connecticut School of Nursing in the fall of 2011. In the beginning it was difficult due to our limited financial resources. I applied for financial aid and received generous grants in the form of scholarships and student loans. I could not believe the help I received from my brand-new country. I love the United States of America and the opportunities it has given me. The thanks and appreciation in my heart cannot be described in any language. I showed my gratitude by working super hard. With English as my second language, I achieved a 3.98 GPA from Tunxis Community College and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a 3.89 GPA from the University of Connecticut School of Nursing in May, 2014. I also became a Naturalized Citizen of the United States in June 2013.

After graduation, I accepted a full-time position as a critical care registered nurse in the Hematology Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit in Yale New Haven Hospital. Every day working in the unit is a rewarding day! I now have the opportunity to use my nursing skills and provide high quality care to critically ill patients. When I see my patient's blood count recovered, infections controlled and decreased, side effects from chemotherapy or stem cell transplants managed effectively, my heart is fulfilled with joy! In addition to working full time at Yale New Haven Hospital, I am currently attending UConn part time working on a DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) degree.

Even though I am extremely busy working full time and studying for a DNP degree, something in my heart is also calling me to become a Navy Reserve Nurse. Besides giving the best quality care to my patients in Yale New Haven Hospital, I want to do something more to give back to my new country that I love so much. I believe that in the Navy Reserve I can give back by using my skills to provide high quality care and affect the lives of the most deserving: our men, women, and their families in the military. I am proud to be an American and want to develop into a leader and experience the traditions that the Navy offers. I have the drive, determination, and discipline to become an excellent Navy Officer regardless of the obstacles that may be placed in front of me. To become an Officer in the Navy Nurse Corps is one of the greatest honors that I can ever imagine. On September 16, 2016 I received a direct commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy Reserve. I look forward to my monthly drills and am excited each time I put on the uniform of the United States Navy.

Thank you again and God bless you.

Sincerely,

**Tao Wang**



## A THANK YOU from your Scholarship Student

**August 2017**

Thank you from myself, my wife (Kaitlyn), and my son (Elijah). I can't really express how much your generosity truly means to my entire family. Going back to school with an infant has been more than challenging, especially while working full time as an ICU nurse. This scholarship will really help at home and takes a good deal of financial pressure off during this important final year.

This scholarship will allow me to work less hours throughout the year and spend more time with my family. It was hard to weigh whether I would have to work full time to support my family financially in my last year as I have throughout the program thus far and miss seeing my son often or working part time and being short on money. This scholarship really helps my wife and I make ends meet and will allow both of us more time with our son.

I hope to be an APRN in orthopedic surgery and work in the perioperative role as a first assist. After graduation, or during the close of my program, I hope to become a certified RNFA to further my skills as a first assist.

Thank you for being a donor. I know it must not always be easy to provide scholarships year after year, but when you are able to it really does make a difference in the recipients lives, such as me. My family and I truly thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

**Arthur Kasimer-Colon**



**Arthur L. Kasimer-Colon, '18**  
**West Hartford, CT**

Major:  
Adult/Gero Acute Care Nurse  
Practitioner

Scholarship:  
M. & K. Connelly Nursing Scholarship





## A THANK YOU from your Scholarship Student

**August 2017**

Words cannot describe my gratitude for receiving this scholarship. After applying to study in Cape Town, South Africa for the fall of 2017, the only hesitations I had were financial related. I knew this opportunity was once in a lifetime, so I decided to commit to the program anyway. I've been working 50+ hour weeks this summer to make up for the difference of being away this upcoming semester. However, the help of this scholarship has relieved me and will allow me to enjoy the four months in Cape Town without constant worry.

I am so appreciative for donors like you who believe in and help students like me. You truly are a blessing and I intend to continue to make the University of Connecticut and all of you proud. I cannot wait to expand my horizons and step out of my comfort zone as well as meet new people in South Africa. There is no doubt that this experience will make me a more multi-faceted nurse and open-minded individual.

As my seventh semester approaches, I am eagerly thinking that in less than a year, I will be a registered nurse caring for others. After two semesters of clinical and almost three years of being a certified nurse's aide, I can confidently say that I cannot wait to be a nurse! I hope to meet you and keep in touch with my plans for the future. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Sincerely,

**Brittany Kenyon**



**Brittany L. Kenyon, '18**

**Danbury, CT**

Major:  
Nursing

Minor:  
Biology

Scholarship:  
Nursing Study Abroad Scholarship



## A THANK YOU from your Scholarship Student

August 2017

### The Gift of Hope By Patience Akugue

Angels comes in different forms to bless mortals. Maybe it is true that when you are visited by an angel, your life changes for the better. I have once again been visited by an angel in the form of a scholarship donor.

As an immigrant, it takes faith and strong determination to pursue such expensive goals of wanting to be a registered nurse and a nurse practitioner at the same time. Looking back, the challenges that I faced during my first nursing degree should have discouraged me from wanting to further in my career. However, my daily experience with my patients drives me closer to wanting to get more knowledge in order to contribute to the field of nursing.

This scholarship is worth more than a billion dollars to me because it is a huge blessing and relief to me and my family. Since I started work as a registered nurse at the hospital for about two years now, I have not been able to save any money because of student loans, car loan and other bills payment. The thought of taking another student loan to further my education has been very daunting. With scholarships like this, I can breathe with ease as I pay off my loans. I will be relieved of the stress of having to work crazy hours thereby having adequate time to study. It will also give me the opportunity to earn my degree faster as I may be able to take extra summer classes. This special and rare support will help me in my dream of getting a doctor in nursing practice in the long run.

My hope is renewed and my energy revived by this gift of hope. I will forever be grateful and work hard to make my benefactors proud.



**Patience O. Akugue, '19**  
**Manchester, CT**

Major:  
Nursing

Scholarship:  
Nursing Scholarship Fund



## A THANK YOU from your Scholarship Student

**August 2017**

I would like to thank you so very much for granting me this scholarship. Because of your generosity, I have fewer burdens of taking out student and parent loans to help pay for my education. Your scholarship will offset a great amount on my loans and will help me pay so much this upcoming year. I worked very hard during my junior year at the University of Connecticut School of Nursing and I am so proud to be a member of this community where giving back is so important.

As a soon-to-be registered nurse in one year from now, I am looking forward to entering a profession where compassion and caring are the main elements of my job. I aspire to be just like the nurses who have set such a great example for me during my clinical experience at UConn. Upon graduation, I plan to work at a hospital in Boston, which is where I was raised, and work on a medical surgical unit for a few years. I am looking forward to using all of the knowledge and experience that I gain during my study abroad in Cape Town, South Africa towards my career, as I am confident that it will make me both a better nurse and citizen of the world.

I am so very grateful for the support you have given me through this scholarship. Thank you so very much!

Sincerely,

**Ciara O'Shea**



**Ciara A. O'Shea, '18**

**Brighton, MA**

Major:  
Nursing

Scholarship:  
Nursing Study Abroad Scholarship



## A THANK YOU from your Scholarship Student

**August 2017**

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for your generosity for awarding me with this scholarship. I know that you had to review numerous applications and the fact that I was chosen humbles me. In this day and age, college is deemed as a necessity but is priced as a luxury, making it difficult for students to attend.

Being awarded the Nursing Leadership Scholarship has not only assisted me financially for the upcoming school year, but it has also assisted me emotionally. Your generosity reminds me that there are wonderful people in the world and I'm honored to have crossed paths with you.

I have been recently elected the secretary of the nursing class of 2020. This scholarship has given me an extra push to continue my leadership role in and around my community. After completing the duration of the nursing program here at UConn, I hope to begin working as a registered nurse in a hospital in Southwestern Connecticut. Although I am unsure of what specialty path I would like to follow currently, I know that after working for a few years I would like to further my education and pursue my master's degree and become an advanced practice registered nurse.

Thank you for aiding me on my journey and believing in me.

Sincerely,

**Diamond Medley**



**Diamond N. Medley, '20**  
**Stratford, CT**

Major:  
Nursing

Scholarship:  
School of Nursing Dean's Fund