

Your address
City, State, Zip code

January 12, 2014

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am applying for the Rusty Q. Shackelford Honors Program Scholarship. I am currently a third year student in the nursing program. It is my hope that my chosen profession will enable me to fulfill my dreams to help others, to continuously expand my knowledge base, and to travel the world. Throughout my schooling, I have participated in extracurricular activities and valuable volunteer experiences. Ever hoping to make the most of my education, I have always striven for academic excellence. Further, I have also worked to provide for some of the basic expenses that students have. This will become more of a concern in the coming year, as this is when my current scholarship will expire.

Education has always been an important part of my life. During my high school years I aspired to take challenging courses, including advanced placement English, calculus, physics, and chemistry. I enjoy the arts and was involved in my school's art, band, and choir programs. Despite the time-consuming practices for concerts, musicals, and exhibits, I was able to maintain a 3.95 grade point average, graduating as salutatorian. I decided to stay near home and come to Edu-Tech University because of the smaller class size, scholarship funds, and the University's Honor Program.

I have received many scholarships since I began my college studies. In 2005 I received the Chancellor's Scholarship providing me with \$2,500 per year for four years. I also received three scholarships from my graduating high school. The first was the Goodrich Alumni Scholarship totaling \$600. The second was the Goodyear Teachers Scholarship totaling \$500. The last was from the National Honor Society and totaled \$400. All of these awards were given based on scholarship and community service. Because of my acceptance in the University's Honor Program I also receive the Honor's Scholarship. Despite the challenges of both the nursing and honors curriculum I have managed to maintain a 3.8 grade point average. My efforts did not go unnoticed and in 2008 I received two additional scholarships including the Rusty Q. Shackelford Honors Scholar Program Scholarship and the Rusty Q. Shackelford Long Distance Learning Scholarship. These accomplishments lead me to believe that in the future I will continue my academic excellence.

In addition to my scholarly pursuits, I am involved with many other activities. During high school I was an active member of the National Honor Society for three years. My last year of membership gave me the chance to play a bigger role as I served as treasurer. I would often tutor other students, offering my time before and after school for instruction in middle or high school English and math. I enjoy helping others with schoolwork and have continued to aid fellow students at the college level. I also enjoy the arts and participated in many performances, plays, musicals and exhibitions, many of which required traveling to other areas and interacting with new people. I belong to the National Student Nurses Association as well. I have volunteered my time to inform individuals of various ages of what nursing involves and share the need for nurses. In addition, I have entered the community to perform blood pressure screenings and offer

information to those at risk of hypertension and diabetes. I have increased my knowledge base as well as my public presentation skills by presenting one of my papers, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Themes of Conflict in the Plays of Shakespeare" at the Edu-Tech University Undergraduate Research Conference in 2006. Through all of these experiences I have learned to act as a leader, work in groups, and organize my time appropriately.

Aside from my school-related activities, I am involved with my local church community. I teach a class of small children when other teachers are unable to teach Sunday school. I have also participated in church cleanup, nursery duty and choir. I feel that by aiding in church related activities I am setting a positive example for the children within the church to follow.

Work is also a big part of my life. Until recently, I would work up to twenty hours every week to provide for educational expenses. Presently I work eight hours a week in the neonatal intensive care unit as an extern at Buxley Medical Center. I enjoy the work because I am able to see newborns develop until they can finally be discharged to their families. Through my work experiences I have learned a little more about what to expect upon completion of the nursing program and now know the reality of what to expect as a registered nurse. Seeing problems like mandatory overtime and sparse benefits has motivated me to remain active in nursing groups because I realize that, as a group, we will be able to voice our concerns about the issues that affect us.

My hope is to become a registered nurse so that I can perform tasks that clients cannot do for themselves as well as be an active listener, a patient advocate, and an educator. I have had an extraordinary number of nursing instructors who were absolutely wonderful and would one day like to give back what they have given to me by becoming an instructor. One day I know that I will provide something meaningful to the lives that I touch.

Sincerely,

Signature

Typed name