

To the Arizona Osteopathic Charities Scholarship Committee:

I want to thank you for your consideration of contribution to my education. Your generous donation will help to cover expenses associated with my tuition.

My path leading into medicine was inspired through providing care and love to my grandparents in their final days, while learning to advocate on their behalf in the complex field of medicine. The qualities of leadership, compassion, and humanism have been instilled in me throughout my journey to medicine and continue to be a resounding force in the purpose and direction that I believe I am meant to serve. It is my intention to continue to pursue excellence in the human connection and distinction in the field of medicine. It is my hope to one day return to the communities in which I grew up in to serve the many vulnerable populations as a conduit for health promotion, literacy, and education. Through advocacy and legislation, community memberships and volunteerism, I hope to move in action of these words to create a positive change in society and those around me.

I am working towards not only being a leader in my community, but a change agent in a medical system that is failing to provide for the most vulnerable of populations. One of my goals as an Osteopathic Physician is to be a voice within underrepresented communities throughout my profession. This initiative is no simple task but relies heavily upon those who understand and have witnessed the struggle of poor health literacy and access to appropriate care and can relate to these populations. Having lived, grown up, and now completed clerkship training within one of these communities of need, it is my hope to continue as an advocate and voice for those who feel like they have none. This past year, I authored two research papers addressing some of these health disparities within Native Hawaiian populations and spoke on the lack of culturally competent research and treatments. Through the American College of Physicians, I was awarded as a top student researcher for these efforts and presentations on the underestimation of disease burden in cultural and ethnic groups. I was also selected to present this work at the AOA Educating Leaders National Conference.

As we continue to bridge the gap of multidisciplinary approach and underrepresented groups in medical fields, I continue to volunteer as a resource and speaker with local high schools and undergraduate programs that typically do not offer pathways into post-secondary education or the medical field. Through volunteerism at Hire Heroes USA, my focus has been helping service members and combat veterans re-integrate into the civilian work force through sharing about the medical field. I help host mock interviews, job searching, and CV review for these military heroes. It is through these efforts and community involvements that I hope to advance the healthcare field and be a representative in furthering the Osteopathic profession through humanism in medicine.

Mahalo and thank you for your consideration,

Robert W. Mun, OMS-IV (c/o 2022)

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