

Thursday, July 7, 2022

From early on in my childhood, it has been my dream to pursue a career in the sciences. I was initially undecided on the particular field, however, I am leaning towards medicine. Ontario Clean Water Agency Science Scholarship fits well with my plans and will back up my groundwork to help expand my knowledge in preparation for my career in medical sciences. I believe I am a great candidate for this award not only because of my career goal but also because I am ready and eager to learn, I enjoy working in teams and I have a passion for helping people. Through my early education, I have come to greatly enjoy the science subjects in school. Unlike other subjects, the classroom theories we learned in Physics, Chemistry and Biology tell us a lot about human life and our surroundings. However, I feel that it will be exciting to get a deeper understanding of these subjects and the career angle they take in higher education. I want to make the connection between my studies and my career goal. Being awarded such a distinction will prepare me for the next level of education. I want to be able to dive into all the things that I don't know, without financial barriers.

For me, pursuing a career in sciences is about being passionate about wanting to help people. I have participated in many acts, such as visiting nursing homes and helping out in my community. Bi-weekly, my church community has a program where we visit nursing homes to care for and socialize with residents. Knowing how to interact with others and be able to build rapport is a skill I have strengthened out of this event and I believe this will be of great value to me in my life and career. In addition, I never miss joining our school community service and annual sock food drive. I strongly feel it is important to think about those who are less fortunate or have dire needs. It is a humbling experience that makes you feel you are making a positive contribution to society. I believe careers in the science field makes a difference and greatly contributes to a better world. I want to be a part of something that I am passionate about, I want to be able to be included in being the change. Ontario Clean Water Agency Science Scholarship will allow me to complete these goals and more.

I believe in the cause Ontario Clean Water Agency stands for. They believe in community and for me community service is a very important aspect of my life. I enjoy volunteering in food banks, clothing drives and other community-driven activities. One impactful activity I engage in is the socks drive. At first I never understood the impact this activity had on the homeless community members in need. Nevertheless, I joined the chaplaincy team in gathering one thousand pairs of socks for the Toronto homeless community. It was only when I saw the reaction on an older man's face when we were distributing the socks that I understood the impact it had. He hugged me just because he would no longer have cold feet that upcoming winter. It was so heartbreaking when he asked for another pair that I could not provide because there were so many others who required a pair as well. From that moment, I made it my goal to double the amount of socks we collect each year. Although we weren't able to undertake this activity these past two years, I managed to achieve my plan to go back so I could give that man or anyone I encounter two socks instead of one as I had once promised. All these activities helped me interact with fellow citizens and hear their stories. I believe being a leader is being able to give back to the community that helped you prosper. It goes without saying that this

award will give me the chance to achieve my dreams, and in the future be able to give others a similar experience.

I am happy that the Ontario Clean Water Agency recognizes the need to provide persons of African ancestry, like me, an opportunity to be able to have this significant exposure into the sciences studies. I am looking forward to joining this career and playing my part in the health welfare of my community.

Best,

Esther Otieno