

Scholarship

Scholarship Success Stories

Se Yang's Story

2016 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC Scholarship



I had been a housewife for 20 years at the time I started nursing school. My sons were growing up and becoming more self-reliant, so I decided to it was time to pursue my other dreams including a career I would excel in while also helping others. As with most children, my sons had gotten sick or injured when young and I found the experiences of taking care of them during these times especially rewarding and meaningful. This realization led me to nursing.

I'm actually a transplant to Santa Rosa, moving here with my husband in 2001 as he took on a new job. At that time, I had a 6-year-old son and was pregnant with our second. English is my second language; largely self-taught through books and TV during those years with my sons when they were very young. Later, as part of a prerequisite for nursing school, I studied English more at Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) and later my nursing courses.

Fast forward to 2016 when, as a student in the Nursing Bridge Program, I was finishing up my coursework at SRJC and preparing to transfer to Sonoma State University to complete my BSN. This was when I applied for and was so graciously awarded your AAUW scholarship. Unlike SRJC tuition, the cost of attending SSU was a burden but doable with the financial support you provided. Additionally, receiving this award impacted me mentally and physiologically knowing that AAUW trusted and supported me as I've navigated this next chapter of my life. It is difficult to put into words how immensely grateful I am.

After graduating from SSU, I worked at a skilled nursing facility for a couple of years. I then got a job at Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital where I still work today. I'm in the cardiac telemetry unit working the night shift because it pays more, and I need the funds to pay for my son's college tuition and save money for my future school. Currently I am preparing PCCN (Progressive Care Certified Nurse), a specialty certification for telemetry unit nurse or step-down unit nurse. In the future, I'd hope to go back to school to become a Family Nurse Practitioner, a dream I've had for some time.

Once you become a mother and housewife, it is not easy to pursue anything else. I felt guilty using time and resources for myself instead for my kids/family. The support from the Healdsburg AAUW gave me a message that I am not alone, that it's okay to pursue my educational goal, and that there are people who support the educational challenge of women. Thank you all for the faith and support you provided at this crossroads of my life.
