

### Amberlyn Heskett's Story

#### 2018 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship



My name is Amberlyn Heskett, and I received my scholarship in 2018 as I graduated from Windsor High School. After high school I was able to attend Dominican University of California where I received my Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a minor in Psychology. I am a first-generation college student and come from a low-income family; this scholarship gave me the opportunity to go to my dream university and work towards my goal of becoming a Labor and Delivery nurse.

Throughout my childhood I faced multiple challenges including losing my mother to cancer and my childhood home burning in the Tubbs fire. Seeing how the hospice nurses cared for my mother and me during that difficult time inspired me to go into healthcare and help people the same way those nurses helped me. I had to work hard every day both to reach my academic goals while still meeting the challenge of being able to afford college. Your Healdsburg AAUW helped to make this possible as well as to create many more opportunities during and after college. While at Dominican University, I

became a Student Ambassador Captain in the Admissions Department and led a team that promoted college education and to inspire potential students. I was also able to be a part of the Study Abroad program which allowed me to study in Athens, Greece. I took my first international flight and became immersed in photography. This experience taught me how to step out of my comfort zone and be able to experience new cultures as I lived and learned in this vibrant environment.

As a nursing student, I have worked in hospitals all over the Bay Area (Kaiser Santa Rosa, Dignity Health, Zuckerberg San Francisco Memorial) and have gained experience in a variety of departments including hospice, med-surg, pediatrics, and labor and delivery. Now as a recent cum laude graduate, I'm working towards passing my board exams that will qualify me for my dream job as a Labor and Delivery Nurse. Thank you, Healdsburg AAUW, for providing me with the ability to reach these goals that as a teen I could only hope to achieve.