

Ramat Olasunkanmi

Described your membership and/or leadership experience in a school or a professional organization:

In August 2022 I applied and was accepted as a member of the student advisory council for New York City Outward Bound. This is a group of students from different Outward-Bound schools all over the 5 boroughs, who come together to be the voice of their peers. We are a part of the conversation to make our school communities better and more unified. It is our job to not only represent but to also involve more students in decisions that will affect them in school.

Earlier in the summer I also was selected to be student ambassador for my high school, Kurt Hahn Expeditionary Learning School. The role I play as an ambassador is similar to my role in the advisory council as I get to be a representative for students. As ambassadors we help recruit students, we have a say in the rules that get passed in our school, we are role models and mentors to our juniors, and we work to ensure that every voice is heard, keeping our community inclusive and safe.

In school, I also have participated in Girls Group since my Junior year, however as a senior I am one of the leaders. I, alongside other girls at my school and female adults, created a space for young girls to express themselves. Young girls from grades 9 through 12 are invited to join circles where we can talk about the issues we face in school, at home and all different aspects of our lives. It is a break from the male dominated environment we are in all weeks. As leaders, we pose questions that help them unpack and reflect on themselves and the environment we are in. This space serves a community to either make friends, connect, create memories, or receive aid from other members.

Goals: What are your short-term goals? Long term goals?

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My short-term goals are to achieve 95s and above in all my classes. I also want to get a stable and secure part time job. I hope to finish reading at least 5 of the books I started in 2022. I also want to go to a restaurant in Manhattan with friends to create memories before we all go away for college. Most importantly, I have to graduate high school.

My long-term goals are to begin my undergraduate education. I am excited to meet people from different cultures and backgrounds with different ideologies and perspectives. I aim to acquire my bachelor's degree and go on to grad school. While doing this I hope to get a job in the humanities field that will help support my future career as a therapist. I hope to gain more experiences while meeting professionals in grad school and make connections that I will carry through life. I will then begin my career as a therapist after acquiring my master's degree.

Please explain your need for the No Rest Until Success Foundation: Dorine Robles Scholarship Award.

I need the Dorine Robles Scholarship Award because I need the financial support for my college education. Going to college has always been the end goal for me, to pursue the career of my choice which is becoming a psychologist. This scholarship will also support me in my hopes of joining a college community that will give to me as I give back. I hope to make mental health easily accessible to all individuals at very affordable prices or even for free. I hope to educate individuals in developing countries on the importance of mental health and how it goes hand in hand with physical health. I hope to advocate for mental health awareness all over the world and break the stigma that something must be "wrong" with you to see a therapist. And I know with the help of this scholarship I am one step closer.

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On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following question: How would this scholarship help you attain your educational and professional goals?

Social sciences and Psychology have always been a passion of mine. I am of Nigerian heritage where mental health isn't prioritized. It is believed that if the issue isn't physical it's not real. There is always the idea that once you can walk, see, hear and not in the hospital then you are okay. It is so crucial for me to learn about psychology to educate the people in my life and help individuals that heal from the invisible things that can hurt just as much as the physical ailments.

The Robles Scholarship Award will aid me in my undergraduate experience, directly contributing to my future career as a psychologist. I want to serve communities that are historically underserved not only because of a lack of professional resources but also because of the stigma around mental health. A college experience with enriching learning experiences alongside staff who are highly trained in their field is most important and with this scholarship I will be able to achieve my dreams.

In addition, write a one-page essay explaining why attending college is important to you achieving your dreams and aspirations in life. Be sure to state the economic as well as the social factors that you are facing, and how this scholarship will help you overcome those challenges.

One of the most defining moments in my life will most definitely be higher education experience. All my life since my childhood college/ university has always been the end goal in my family. While my parents never got to even complete their high school experience, all my older siblings have either completed or are completing their college education. Therefore, I must follow the family footsteps and achieve my hopes and dreams.

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I am the second person I'm my family to attend college in the United States. This is because I am Nigerian and most of my older siblings completed their education in our home county. This means a lot because I will be somewhat of a role model to my cousins, like my older sister. College is an important opportunity for me to create my life the way I see fit. I will have the space to branch out and fully learn about myself and create a space for myself in hopes of success. Both of my parents currently reside in Nigeria. I moved here to the US at the age of eleven with my older siblings. Although they are older, they are still young and trying to make a way for themselves. At this moment I am ineligible for many forms of aid, therefore I am trying to be diligent in applying for scholarships that I am a match to.

In my college years I plan on being a psychology major, this is because the topics of trauma, how humans relate to one another and just how we think as people means a lot to me. This is because there is a lot of intergenerational trauma birthed from cultural expectations and sexism that perpetuates in my family. By going to college and pursuing my major, I will be able to acquire the skills to have those difficult conversations with my family and loved ones. I will have the ability to provide help for an array of people, and the ability to go to college and acquire my degree is crucial in this goal.

Going to college is also the first taste of what it means to be an adult and having to navigate that part of life that I see fit will shape me into who I need to be. I will be around a new set of people and will have to showcase my personality. I will be met with obstacles and challenges I have yet to face. All this away from home, family, friends and my comfort zone. I know college won't be easy, however I am not expecting it to be. I am as ready for the trials and tribulations as I am ready for freedom and success.