

Dear Ms. Graham,

I want to express my gratitude for your extremely generous scholarship. This is a contribution that will help me finish and complete my degree, something that is difficult for part-time and working students to accomplish.

Despite having a difficult childhood, my single mother pushed my sister and I into every opportunity she could. We went to great schools, summer camps, art programs, and much more due to my mother's hard sacrifices. One particularly rough year, we lived on the street for 3 days before being let back into our apartment. At my previous college, tuition was privatized, and therefore very expensive. After one year I had to drop out. I did not want my college experience hindered and plagued by student loan debt. I knew higher education and a Bachelor's degree was necessary, but I felt it should not come at such a cost. After almost three years working, I decided it was time to try again. Tuition, while still a challenge, poses less of a threat to education with people such as you, willing to give to those who need the extra help. My mother sacrificed and struggled for so many years, I owe it not only to myself, but to her to finish college and set high goals for my career.

Higher education is something that is so valuable and valued, yet it so difficult for some of us to achieve. People like you are the reason students like me feel supported and encouraged to continue and finally finish our degrees. Despite being in the top 15% of my class, making the Dean's List every year, having been invited to join the Golden Key Honor's Society and winning a first-place award at a film festival for a Hunter College film, paying the tuition every year has not been easy. This is the first scholarship I have been awarded at Hunter and I do not take it for granted. This scholarship will ensure that I get to finish my education this time around, something that is invaluable to me.

Thank you!

M.S., 2017 Olga Graham Scholar