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Progress Report



Many students like myself drown in a sea of burdens beyond academic pressures. Often we get exhausted, gasping for relief in a world where people are taught to shoulder hardships on their own. When we start to float, we sink deeper into an abyss and feel as empty as the space around us. The only thing to grasp is our American dream, a hope that slowly fades like the air in our lungs. However, once in a while, we see ropes sway in front of us to pull ourselves out. These ropes are benevolent deeds from others to help people like us. As rare as these ropes are, they are that much helpful. To me, this rope came from God, family, friends, NYBBC TaeKwonDo, and most recently the SNUCMAA scholarship.

Originally a business major, I transferred to biology with the ambition to become a Physician Assistant. However, ambition was not enough to swim in these murky waters. Not only was I behind my age group by one year, but I was also in a new environment encompassing trials I never imagined. To top it off, financial concerns ate what was left of my self-esteem before I could adapt. Soon, everything became a blur. In a daze, I lost the passion that once burned and rode the waves as they came.

I did not think much as I read about SNUCMAA in the newspaper. A few weeks passed as I continuously looked at it on my desk until I finally decided to apply. Expecting nothing back, I slumped until a notification was sent that I was one of the fortunate awardees. Life slowly flipped around. With the scholarship, I was better able to afford basic needs, means to transport in a timely and efficient manner, and most importantly, confidence that I lost during the semester. The scholarship instilled a sense of ease in me, assuring me that I was capable of success and did not need to stress as much as I did. I better understood that there were caring people out there who are willing to help people like me set their foot in the right direction. To this end, I am eternally grateful to SNUCMAA and this experience that has reaffirmed why I am still a student. In the future, I wish to follow in the footsteps of SNUCMAA by instilling the same kind of hope in people as I work in the medical field.