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I am an SNUCMAA scholarship recipient for the 2023-2024 school year, currently studying film at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. Receiving this scholarship meant so much to me and my family. Having the support of your organization was a very special way to begin my school year.

Moving from Seattle to New York for school has been a big transition. Upon moving to New York, I met many interesting people and have roommates who feel like family. I have been able to explore the city quite a lot as well. Being at an art school, many professors assign us to go to the many museums throughout the city as part of our work. In this first year at Pratt Institute, I am taking art classes exploring light, color, and design, for what's called Foundations year, along with a few film classes. The class I enjoyed the most this past semester was my film production class. I already knew much of the basics of film production, so I was able to hone my skills and collaborate with others, which I enjoyed.

The SNUCMAA scholarship money was spent on tuition. Pratt is a very expensive school totaling around \$57,000 annually for tuition. This scholarship made it so my family would have to borrow less money from the Parent Plus loan, which was a real gift.

In looking at how I plan to give back in the future, I hope to be able to mentor other young people who are interested in film, to empower young people to tell their stories and share their truths. Film is a powerful medium that allows for great creative expression. Access to high-quality academic programs in film is a privilege that many women like myself rarely receive. Teaching myself the skills to create quality work was a difficult process. I hope to make filmmaking more accessible to those who may not have the skills or resources.

Another way I hope to give back is by portraying the stories of my community through film and storytelling. I hope to be part of a new generation of filmmakers that challenges the film industry's rules, and pushes for greater nuance in storytelling. Many are already planting the seeds of what this next generation will nurture and grow into a new era of film, and I intend to contribute. My hope as a film director is to highlight social issues and create representation in the industry to hopefully pave the way for others.

In closing, I plan to be an instrument of change in the world through film. I will mentor young people to share my knowledge and empower those who may not have the same opportunities I have had. I will also share stories from my community to highlight voices that are often silenced.

I appreciate your part in my journey by granting me this scholarship. This scholarship will play a role in my success and because of that, I am forever grateful.





