

Scholarship Progress Report

Eunice Choi

Columbia University

Receiving this scholarship has been both an honor and a responsibility. As a student at Columbia University, I am constantly surrounded by peers and mentors whose ambition and intellectual rigor push me to grow beyond what I once thought possible. This scholarship has not only eased financial pressures but has meaningfully enhanced my scholarly development, allowing me to engage more deeply in my academic and professional pursuits.

The financial support has primarily been directed toward tuition and academic resources. By alleviating part of the financial burden associated with attending Columbia, the scholarship has enabled me to focus more fully on my coursework and long-term academic goals without the constant stress of financial strain. I have been able to dedicate additional time to rigorous study, research exploration, and professional development opportunities that enrich my education beyond the classroom.

As someone pursuing a career in STEM and pre-medical studies, I have used this period of academic support to strengthen both my scientific foundation and interdisciplinary interests. I am particularly fascinated by the intersection of cognitive science, neuroscience, and human behavior. The freedom afforded by this scholarship has allowed me to pursue intellectually demanding coursework and engage thoughtfully with complex material, rather than dividing my energy between academics and financial concerns.

Beyond academics, this scholarship has enhanced my scholarly activities by giving me the flexibility to explore leadership and creative endeavors. Whether participating in student organizations, collaborating with peers, or pursuing writing projects, I have been able to invest in experiences that develop critical thinking, communication skills, and creative problem-solving. These experiences are shaping me into a more well-rounded scholar – one who not only understands technical knowledge but also appreciates its broader social and cultural implications.

Looking toward the future, I envision using my education to serve communities in need through both healthcare and mentorship. My long-term goal is to pursue medical education and contribute meaningfully to patient care, particularly for underserved populations who face systemic barriers to quality healthcare. I am deeply aware that access – to education, to mentorship, to healthcare – can fundamentally change the trajectory of a person's life. This scholarship has been one such access point for me.

In addition to serving as a physician, I hope to mentor students from backgrounds similar to mine who may feel intimidated by elite academic spaces. Representation and guidance matter. I want

to demystify higher education and professional pathways, helping others navigate applications, financial aid systems, and academic expectations with greater confidence. By sharing both the tangible knowledge and the intangible encouragement that I have received, I hope to multiply the impact of the generosity shown to me.

This scholarship has reinforced my commitment to academic excellence and service. It has not merely funded my education; it has strengthened my resolve to ensure that the opportunities I have been given extend far beyond myself. I am profoundly grateful for this investment in my future and remain dedicated to honoring it through hard work, integrity, and a lifelong commitment to helping others in need.

