

## THE CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE FOUNDATION

### *Excerpts from letters of 2010-11 Charlotte W. Newcombe scholars*

“I am a sophomore at Brooklyn College and words cannot express my gratitude and happiness on receiving the Newcombe Scholarship.

I’ve decided to change my major from pre-med to Women’s Studies. I had my heart set on being a doctor but a month into the semester, I was admitted to the hospital due to a Lupus flare-up. My ankle and hip joints were hurting to the point where I was immobile for two weeks. During those weeks, I knew I had to make several decisions regarding my classes.

After undergoing full hip replacement in June, I started the semester as a Scholars Academy student, the honors program at Brooklyn. However, my health again interfered. Stress from the workload was aggravating my Lupus symptoms.

I am now doing much better. I am focused on my health, Women’s Studies classes, and enjoying life. I write in my spare time – I have a blog devoted to Lupus.

This scholarship provides a motivation to continue hoping for a successful future and to work my hardest. I feel honored as a recipient and I will not let myself or those who have supported me find fault. I knew by choosing Brooklyn College I was headed for a great future, supplemented by an enriching education. Education is very important to me and I want to make the most of my college career by studying hard and balancing life’s activities. My disabilities do not define me as an individual. Setbacks are frustrating, but they give way to new and bigger opportunities. Lupus will not conquer me. I will conquer Lupus. I have dreams I want to achieve. Even though I am still uncertain as to what I want to be or study in the future, I am certain of the fact that no matter what I put my heart and mind to, I will succeed.”

*- Brooklyn College*

“Thank you so much for providing this scholarship for me. I have to work extra hard to earn good grades, and it feels so nice to be recognized for what I have accomplished.”

*- Edinboro University*

“I was able to accomplish my goal of obtaining an internship at Deaf Wellness Center (DWC) in Rochester, NY. I observed a lot of in-patients and outpatients, performed language assessments, witnessed electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), and participated in clinical meetings, group sessions and activities when I interned there. I never thought I would leave DWC with such rich experiences and a heart filled with passion for helping others.

My internship at DWC is part of the puzzle to my future. My experiences at DWC helped me make decisions about my next step in life. All of this would not have been possible without the scholarship award.”

*- Gallaudet University*

“I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation for providing a scholarship to help me pay for school expenses. I am truly blessed to have received one of the greatest gifts that one can ever ask for. You have made me believe that there is hope out there for those who are struggling financially but want to accomplish big goals and dreams. By providing me this grant you have not only made me that much more passionate about school and my dreams but to one day become a sponsor as well. This scholarship has a deeper meaning to me than I can ever explain. With this opportunity I will be able to fulfill my aspirations and achieve my long-term professional goal, which is to be involved and giving back to the community. I can’t wait to face the world and make a difference in someone’s life.”

*- Long Island University*

“Thank you for believing in my ability to succeed and for supporting me in my academic endeavors. I appreciate your support very much.”

*- Edinboro University*

“I want to thank you for the scholarship that was awarded to me. This money will help out a great deal. I am a paraplegic who is trying to finish up my degree to make a better life for my daughter and myself. It is extremely hard to work, take care of schoolwork, and raise a seven-year-old girl. This money will enable me to spend more time with my daughter and give me more time to work on my homework.

I am an Economics major at Penn State. This major is really interesting and challenging. I figured if I was going to go to school, I should choose a degree that would satisfy me and would be worth the money it would cost to get the degree. Economics is a growing field and is always changing. I can relate many of the concepts I have learned to my experiences in the real world.

Thank you for your generosity and your caring hearts to help disabled students make a name for themselves. Your kindness means a great deal to me and I will do my best to make a difference in the world.”

- *Penn State*

“Dedicated students who are compromised by a disability often need additional resources in order to successfully complete their educations, and receiving financial support means a great deal to them. I am one of these students. Two semesters of generous funding by the Foundation have improved my financial situation and allowed me to focus on my education. I cherish the opportunities present at Temple University, and the support extended by the Newcombe Foundation has eased my financial burden substantially. This spring semester will complete my undergraduate education at Temple, and this scholarship is instrumental in paying my tuition. Thank you so much.”

- *Temple University*

“I am a junior at Penn State and honored to be awarded the Newcombe Scholarship. I am so grateful for your generosity. My financial situation is very unstable and I am unsure from year to year whether I will be able to continue my education.

I love Penn State, but found that I was struggling in school. One of my professors noticed me and suggested that I might have ADHD. I asked a few questions and realized that there was an Office of Disability Services and although I had been diagnosed when I was five years old, the ODS was able to assist me in getting help for my disability. They also informed me that there were scholarships available for students like me.

It is difficult for me because while I feel very blessed, having an “invisible” disability like ADHD makes so many things extremely challenging for me. My disability overshadows my intellect, and has caused me great frustration and even depression. I am working to get these issues resolved.”

- *Penn State*

“I am so grateful that the Newcombe Foundation is not just an institution designed to provide scholarships for people who need them, but is an institution that brings hope and provides a chance to gain academic success and enriches the lives of those who are fortunate to attain the awards provided by Mrs. Newcombe. I have been blessed with this gift and pray that not only will the Newcombe Foundation become one of the catalysts for the attainment of my degree and my future success but to provide me the ability to one day enrich the lives of others as my life has been enriched by the Foundation.

I have been given the chance for success. Although success involves desire, hard work, dedication, and inner strength, it also involves opportunity. I now have that opportunity and it is now my responsibility to use it to the best advantage. You have lessened my burden and I sincerely thank you for the chance and for the tools to succeed.”

- *Temple University*

“When I received a Newcombe Scholarship, I felt very honored. I definitely feel that I am not a student who received this award because I have a disability; I felt like a student who could do rigorous work in English, who just happens to be disabled. The award has really made me realize that my hard work finally paid off. I am looking to get my degree from Brooklyn College in June. Thank you for believing in me.”

- *Brooklyn College*