

Wendy Luna Garcia



| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Grade: | Sophomore |
| Major: | International Studies |
| Hometown: | Wheatland, Wyoming |
| Goal after College | To work for United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund or HeForShe |

Excerpt from Essay

A moment that occurred during my first semester at UW that shaped my way of thinking and also helped me integrate into the community was how fortunate I was to pursue higher education. I was aware of the sacrifices that my parents made in order to give their children better life chances as well as themselves through my entire academic career.

Nonetheless, being a first-generation college student affected me deeply in the first weeks of my college career. I felt as if I lacked the

skills and did not feel seen in a predominantly white institution which caused my mental health to worsen. At the same time, students of color are frequently overlooked and held to low expectations because of inaccurate stereotypes and portrayals in media and society that also contributed to my self-doubt. However, when I talked to my mother she reminded me of the privilege that I had obtained of pursuing higher education because thousands of young adults do not have access to it.

This scholarship would be a tremendous help for my parents and myself because of the hefty costs of post-secondary education and I would be able to pursue my degree. Furthermore, this scholarship would allow me the opportunity of moving towards helping young girls across the globe, telling stories that are suppressed, and knowledge to thrive in the real world. Post-secondary education is an immense cost, but money isn't everything, education is.