



A Financial Lifeline for Tomorrow's Life-Savers: The Ambrose Monell Foundation Nursing Scholarship



It is impossible to overstate the vital role that nurses play in today's society, a reality underscored in recent years by the COVID-19 pandemic. When most people were socially distancing and working remotely in 2020, nurses were at the front lines of a global health crisis, logging long hours in crammed hospitals and exposing themselves to a novel virus that our top epidemiologists were still struggling to understand.

Nurses are celebrated, and rightly so, not only for their skills and work ethic, but for their courage and empathy. Yet even in the best of times, many aspiring nurses have difficulty entering the field at all.

This is particularly true for nursing majors at community colleges, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, and have demonstrated significant financial need. For Kingsborough Community College (KCC) nursing students, the rigors of their program take an exceptional toll on both time *and* finances. Nursing majors seldom have time to pursue employment outside of class, as their course work extends beyond the typical school day to include lab and clinical work. Aside from tuition, they must also pay for textbooks, materials, equipment and fees for their licensing exams.

Fortunately, the Ambrose Monell Foundation has supported KCC nursing students through its scholarship since 2006.

Founded in 1956, the Ambrose Monell Foundation has supported everything from mental health to performing arts. Over the past decade, it has focused more on science and medicine. “We tend to make grants to organizations that excel in their area of competency,” says Maurizio J. Morello, Executive Vice President of the Ambrose Monell Foundation. “It does not matter whether it is a community college, a college or a university. All that matters is that they are doing good work.”

For nearly two decades, the Ambrose Monell Foundation Scholarship has made a life-changing difference for hundreds of KCC nursing majors. “I am writing this letter with tears in my eyes and so much joy in my heart because this award came right on time,” wrote Tenneshia Taylor, a 2022 Ambrose Monell Scholar, in her thank-you letter earlier this year. A single parent, Tenneshia struggled financially as she attended her nursing program full-time and worked part-time. Thankfully, the Ambrose Monell Foundation provided her a generous and timely lifeline.



“A lot of us are out here on our own,” says Velia Villarreal, another 2022 Ambrose Monell Scholar. Originally from California, Velia moved to Brooklyn a few years ago and currently works in the service industry. Thanks to the scholarship she received, Velia was able to purchase essential materials for her coursework and reduce her financial stress. “Just the fact that I received this scholarship is a huge boost.”

In 2022 alone, KCC was able to award one-hundred and thirty Ambrose Monell Foundation Scholarships to talented and worthy recipients like Tenneshia and Vellia—all of whom faced significant financial obstacles on the road to graduation.

“There is a well known shortage of nurses nationwide,” reflects Mr. Morello. “This will significantly impact urban centers as the general population ages.” Fortunately, KCC produces no shortage of outstanding nursing graduates, many of whom have benefitted greatly from the Ambrose Monell Foundation’s generosity.

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