

How The Nancy Cornelius Scholarship Fund Will Impact Me

My name is Quentin Bell, and when I was eleven years old I was diagnosed with Dyskeratosis Congenita. Soon after my sister was also diagnosed with the same rare disease. This was a shock to my family, and we learned my father was the carrier. At thirteen years old I began my journey of survival and received my bone marrow transplant. I missed out on attending school during my 8th and 9th grade years, spending that time in and out of Cincinnati Children's Hospital. After my time there, my sister started her treatment and also got a bone marrow transplant as well. My life was pretty consumed by doctor visits, and not often did I think about the future I wanted to have. Following my graduation from high school, I had a lot of pressure to start college and so I signed up for my classes. During that time I felt a bit lost, not really ready for what the world was throwing at me, and so I took a break. I was able to get a job, along with life experiences during this time, while most importantly thinking about my future and what I wanted to do. I am now back in college, with my major being cyber security. I have always had a love for all things computers, and technology. During my years in the hospital I spent a lot of my time online, and it left a big impact on me. So this was a field I knew I could have interest in, and enjoy. I'm also aware of the importance of cyber security and that networks should be protected. How the Nancy Cornelius scholarship fund will impact me is that it will help me continue to work towards the future I had such a hard time figuring out. I had some money saved up that helped pay for last semester, which was my first semester back but sadly that money is running out. With this scholarship I will be able to continue to pay for my schooling and continue to work towards my goal. I have two years at my current location, and then two more years at a university. I've always struggled with school, but I have been doing nothing but working hard thanks to the encouragement from all my loved ones. I know that I not only want to have a successful future but I need one. Although I had my bone marrow transplant, the effects of Dyskeratosis Congenita doesn't stop there. I am more susceptible to cancers, liver issues, etc. and so my life depends on a job that can provide good healthcare, or to where I can pay for it. I'm not sure of what my future might hold and so I have to be prepared for it. With this scholarship fund, and my schooling I can work towards a happy and healthy life. I want to prove that anyone with a rare disease can fight through and flourish.