

# Nancy Cornelius Scholarship Application

My name is Jonathon Hornback, and I am currently a senior at Northern Kentucky University, pursuing a degree in sports management. I am writing to express my deep gratitude and explain how the Nancy Cornelius Scholarship would significantly aid in my educational journey and alleviate the financial burdens my family and I are currently facing.

My journey has been anything but ordinary. During my sophomore year of high school, I was diagnosed with Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC), a chronic liver disease. This diagnosis brought immense challenges and uncertainties. However, after numerous consultations and tests, it was later discovered that I was misdiagnosed. The true underlying issue was far more complex and life changing. Both my twin brother and I were found to have the TERT gene of Dyskeratosis Congenita (DC), a rare telomere disorder.

This news has significantly impacted our lives. At 21 years old, my twin brother and I are under the dedicated care of Kas Myers at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. The TERT gene mutation affects the telomeres, which are the protective caps at the end of our chromosomes, leading to premature aging and a variety of potential health issues. Navigating this diagnosis has been an overwhelming experience for my family. The medical appointments and constant attention required have placed a significant emotional and financial strain on us.

Being a full-time student, my ability to contribute financially to my education is extremely limited. The demands of my coursework in sports management are rigorous, and balancing a job with my studies and health management is not feasible. The Nancy Cornelius Scholarship would be an invaluable resource, allowing me to focus on my studies without the added stress of financial

burdens. It would cover essential expenses such as tuition, textbooks, and other educational materials, enabling me to excel academically and achieve my career goals.

My passion for sports management stems from a lifelong love of sports and a desire to be involved in an industry that brings people together and promotes well-being. Despite the challenges I face, I am determined to succeed and make a positive impact in this field. The support from this scholarship would not only ease the financial pressure on my family but also serve as a source of motivation and encouragement for me to continue striving for excellence.

As I am sure you can imagine, having two children with a newly diagnosed rare disease is a heavy burden for any family. The emotional and financial toll is immense, and any assistance we receive is deeply appreciated. The Nancy Cornelius Scholarship would make a significant difference in our lives, providing much-needed relief and allowing me to concentrate on my studies and future career.

In conclusion, I humbly ask for your consideration for the Nancy Cornelius Scholarship. This opportunity would greatly alleviate the financial strain on my family and enable me to pursue my education and career aspirations without the constant worry of financial obstacles. Thank you for taking the time to read my story and consider my application. Your support would mean the world to me and my family as we navigate these challenging times together.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Hornback