

# Worthy Women's Scholarship Finalist Essay

Essay by Krystal Morgan

Dear Worthy Women's Scholarship Committee:

My name is Krystal Morgan, my dream is to create a non-profit where I can research various events, places, and people throughout the African & Black diaspora, curate educational content and exhibits surrounding these topics, and bring groups of blacks together to learn and discuss. The program will aim to build a collective sense of pride and community amongst Blacks across the globe. History is bound to repeat itself if you do not know it so we need education in order to obtain elevation.

I am a non-traditional senior with a 3.861 GPA. I anticipate graduating from DePaul in Spring 2024 with a Bachelor of Arts in African & Black Diaspora Studies and a minor in Anthropology. In 2020, after the death of George Floyd, I began reading books regarding African American history. Reading and learning about the extraordinary accomplishments and hard-won battles Blacks fought worldwide for liberation inspired me to return to college in Winter 2021. I enrolled at Joliet Junior College (JJC) and earned an Associate in Arts and an Associate in General Studies.

I did not realize my life's purpose until May 2021, when my daughter Dykota passed away from Covid-19 at 15. Her death pushed me into my purpose by empowering me to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. I went on a mission to educate and inform parents of the dangers of the virus and the importance of vaccinating their children. I knew I wanted to prevent any other parent from feeling my family's pain and devastation from losing Dykota.

I started a Public Health Campaign and held vaccination clinics in my daughter's honor in Will County, Cook County, and St. Louis while enrolled in full-time classes. People began telling me how my story helped save their lives. I did not realize I could have that impact on people before that experience. At JJC, as Co-Leader of the Black Student Union, I organized an Equity Vaccination Clinic for marginalized groups disproportionately affected by the virus. I also worked with the Red Cross to organize a Sickle Cell Blood Drive on the JJC Campus and partnered with the Black Student Union from Lewis University.

My daughters and teen moms who have come after me are the driving force for my educational goals. As a teen mom at fifteen, I graduated high school on time, but I am still on my journey of obtaining my B.A. almost 20 years later. I want to show my daughters and young girls that no matter what obstacles and barriers they have faced, even if it takes them longer than they initially anticipated. Community work has been rewarding, shaped my research, and given me a new outlook on life. I want to complete more meaningful research projects toward bridging the gap between Blacks and the medical-industrial complex so healing can begin, and this scholarship will help me see my final year of Undergrad through.

Sincerely,

Krystal Morgan