

April 4th, 2021

Peralta Retirees Organization Scholarship Committee,

I am expressing my deepest gratitude for selecting me as Laney College's recipient of the Peralta Retirees Organization Scholarship this spring semester. My time at the Peralta Community College District has been the most transformative and impactful experience of my life.

Outside of my time spent at Peralta, I have been serving the homeless and less fortunate of San Leandro, am a church leader and mentor for an East Oakland House Church network and have been working at a privately owned authorized shipping center for over the past three years. I am a dedicated public servant who likes to serve others who wasn't sure of his next steps in life until returning to Laney College in 2017. My work ethic since returning to Peralta has been intense and often tiring. I have always given all of my assignments a 1000 percent effort, but have struggled with personal satisfaction. I always felt that my work was mediocre and never expected them to resemble anything more than a C grade. I wasn't sure why I was so hard on myself even when my grades were straight A's and reflected that of a hard working, dedicated student. As time progressed, completing assignments became more difficult and I started to feel paralyzed when working on them. It wasn't until this past December that I learned that ADHD ran in my family and that there was a possibility that I could also have it. In January, I was tested and the following month diagnosed with the disorder. Since receiving medication for treatment, my life has been more enjoyable and my assignments are more clearer than ever before. As I look back at my time here at Peralta, I feel that the moral of my story is that of perseverance. While battling ADHD unknowingly, I was able to attain a 3.96 GPA, earn four associate's degrees and many other academic honors through hard work, dedication and an incredible support system at Laney College. This scholarship is of great significance because it is an accolade that symbolizes the successes of four students who proudly represent the many blessings that come by pursuing an education within our great district. I am transferring to the University of California system this fall and will utilize the funds from this award in its entirety towards my incoming college tuition.

Peralta Retirees Organization Scholarship Committee, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this tremendous honor. Laney College consists of some of the world's finest people and being my college's recipient truly means the world to me. As my goal is to become a community college instructor, I hope to be in your position one day. I promise to make the most of your investment as I embark on my next chapter in the UC system.

In highest gratitude,

Ryan Barba
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