

WesternU

College of Graduate Nursing



Meet Damaris

2022 Recipient of the
WesternU Board of Trustees Scholarship



Dear WesternU Board of Trustees:

I am writing with a grateful heart to thank you for awarding me the WesternU Board of Trustees Scholarship. I am so overjoyed by your generosity and appreciative to be the recipient of this scholarship.

I was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles, California to immigrants parents from El Salvador and Guatemala. I am the first in my family to attend college and pursue even higher education at the graduate level. I completed my undergraduate studies at UC Irvine where I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Health Policy and minored in Spanish. I will be joining the WesternU family as a student in the MSN-E program at the College of Graduate Nursing.

Since the beginning of my application process, WesternU stood out to me due to its evident devotion and commitment to equipping future health professionals to provide exceptional health care. During my undergraduate career studying Public Health, I developed a vast knowledge of the importance of health education, focusing on disease prevention, prolonging life, and promoting health. I know that WesternU is the place for me to build upon my foundation and become equipped to be a nurse who not only treats health problems but actively prevents them and advocates for her patients.

In the future, as a registered nurse and aspiring nurse practitioner, I hope to address health disparities amongst underrepresented Latino communities, such as my own in South Central LA. I have had the privilege of serving my community as a hospital volunteer, assisting in health fairs and health outreach, and aiding to bridge the language barrier as a Spanish interpreter. I am a proud Los Angeles native and love my city with my whole heart. It would be an honor to give back to the community that shaped me into who I am.

This scholarship has been a tremendous blessing as a first-generation student and has decreased my financial burden dramatically. Receiving this scholarship allows me to focus on my academic pursuits and decreases my worry about how to pay the cost of attendance. Once again, I am eternally grateful for such generosity and am humbled to have been chosen as a recipient.

Sincerely,

Damaris Abigail Garza
MSN-E Class of 2024

Learn More About
Damaris Abigail Garza, MSN-E 2024
Trustee Scholarship Recipient



Hometown:	Los Angeles, CA
Undergrad:	University of California, Irvine
Degrees:	Bachelor of Arts in Public Health Policy, Spanish minor
Hobbies/Interests:	drawing/painting, reading, long-distance walking/hiking
Previous Career/Job:	Public Health Case Investigator, Medical Scribe

What is your proudest accomplishment? My proudest accomplishment is being the first in my family to attend and graduate from college. Being able to persevere through the hardships, becoming passionate about my area of study, and continuing to pursue my dream career is something I will always be proud of.

What inspired you to pursue your health sciences career path? My drive to become a nurse stems from my passion for health education and equity, along with my desire to serve my community, whose struggles I have witnessed firsthand. Nurses are advocates for their patients and pursuing a nursing career allows me to become an educator, to not only treat health problems but actively prevent them.

Why did you choose to attend WesternU? CGN has organized and structured the curriculum in a way that lays down a strong foundation of the fundamentals to succeed in the semesters to follow. Also, the College has been extremely helpful and kind since the very beginning of the application process.

What are your future career plans/goals? I would love to become a nurse practitioner. My goal is to educate my future patients on their health and promote health literacy, overall improving health outcomes in my local community, which I love dearly.

How will the Trustee Scholarship impact you? Pursuing higher education is very expensive and the cost of it all has easily become very overwhelming and even discouraging in some instances. This scholarship has been a tremendous blessing and has decreased my financial burden dramatically. Receiving this scholarship allows me to focus on school and decreases my worry about how to pay the cost of attendance. I am eternally grateful for such generosity and am humbled to have been chosen as a recipient.

What impact are you hoping to make on the community you serve? The community I grew up in and have the honor to serve is built on the back of Latino immigrants who left hopes and dreams unfinished in their home countries in the search of a better future. To a lot of us, a better future could include a high income and a nice home, but to them, a better future means witnessing their children succeed. I hope to impact my community by providing access to adequate health care and bridging the language barrier for these individuals, as well as being an example to other first-generation children to pursue their dreams.