

Janin Azucena Alcoser. That's my full name, the first is a combination of my mom and dad's initial letters and the second is my mom's second name as well. I am 17 years old and I am currently in the second and final year of pursuing my Associates degree in Biology and Chemistry. Everyone says that the future is obscure and you should never make plans for it because anything can happen; however, I believe God led me to this scholarship for a purpose so in the future I will be a surgeon and offer as much help as I can to those around me as I can because when I needed help, I received it. Sadly that is not the case for many.

My dad is a construction worker and my mom is a housewife so early on in my life I knew I had to find a way to help not only my family but also myself economically if I wanted to keep studying. I thank God everyday because almost 6 years ago I got the opportunity to apply for a B.E.P scholarship and was given the news that I had been chosen as a recipient. With God's blessing and the help of this scholarship, I got to attend Eden S.D.A. High School on a fully funded scholarship. For my four years of highschool I was sponsored by Mr Donal and Mrs Lindsey Grogan, to whom I will be forever grateful to. I spent my four years in high school solidifying my future plan because I knew I wanted to keep studying after highschool so I needed an education plan. I held on to my hopes of going into the medical field so when the time came for me to choose a field in high school I chose Academic/Science field without a doubt.

I put a lot of effort in school and had the best of times making friends and memories, participating in competitions on behalf of my school and even getting the chance to not only represent the school but also the B.E.P. program when I was chosen as a Belizean youth ambassador and got to visit the US for three weeks. All the events and people I've met that live in my memories and heart I was able to meet thanks to the B.E.P. program. They came into my life and changed it drastically; I can definitely say I am who I am because of this program. Because I knew that being chosen as a recipient of this scholarship was both an honor and responsibility, I strived to become someone deserving of their help and that is what led me to work hard enough to graduate as the Salutatorian of the graduating class of 2021. It was certainly not easy but with the help of friends and family I managed to pull my weight and reach the finish line of that part of my life.

I remember the day I was given the news by Ms Knight that I was chosen to receive the B.E.P college scholarship. I was overwhelmed because after four years of studying with their support, they decided to give me the opportunity to keep studying. Fast-forward a year and a half later and that's the part of my story where I currently am; almost finished with my associates degree and it is all thanks to God and the B.E.P.; and I am only one of many students they've helped achieve their educational goals. It is not easy to look at someone and offer help so selfishly, but this is what this program is all about; but they can't do it alone. Anyone reading my story, I am only one of many students who is blessed with the scholarship, this program changed my life and gave me a chance to actually be someone great for my family, my country and for myself. By contributing to this fundraiser you will also be helping teenagers like me who have the desire to learn and grow but don't have the resources. My little sister is also a recipient of the scholarship and everyday my parents remind us that we should be grateful because they would've never been able to afford sending us both to school if it had not been for the B.E.P.

As mentioned in the beginning, I aim to become a great surgeon in the future. My country needs good doctors who are specialized and ready to take on the job because we can't keep sending our own people to foreign countries for minor operations. I know it won't be easy, especially since there are no medical schools in Belize, but I am in no way unmotivated. The B.E.P has already helped me enough, so I will go to med school and study medicine and become

a doctor who is not only knowledgeable about her field but also cares for patients. Even if I have to apply for other scholarships over and over and wait a few years until I can leave the country to study; with God's help I will achieve my dream and ensure that the members of the program know that they made the right choice choosing me as a recipient. So make the right choice and be the help that kids like us need.