



## RECIPIENT TESTIMONIAL

### DICKEY EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

My name is Taylor, I am a recovering drug addict with three years clean. I was addicted to heroin the first time I attended college, because of this I ended up taking large student loans and made poor choices with them. I also did not pass my classes. That was about 10 years ago.

My addiction led me to homelessness, destitution, and crime. I have multiple felonies and have been to prison. I got clean in 2018.

In 2020, I decided I wanted to go back to school. I found out that I no longer qualified for financial aid due to defaults on the old loans I had taken out. I had to pay out-of-pocket for the 1-year accounting certificate I decide to pursue. After my first term I knew what I really wanted was an Associate's degree in IT, but I didn't have any idea how I would be able to pay for the extra year of school that this change would require. I was already working two jobs and going to school full-time.

I could not find any scholarships that I qualified for, mostly due to my felonies, and then one night my mom sent me a link to the Dickey Educational Endowment Fund Scholarship. I had never heard of it, but I decided to apply. After I was interviewed, I was granted the scholarship! I was so grateful! I knew this was my Higher Power working in my life! No doubt about it!

I am now almost on track financially to be able to pay for my tuition for the rest of my degree! I owe a debt of gratitude to the benefactor of DEE for starting this fund and to their relatives whose memory the fund was created in. I am determined to show them that this scholarship will be put to good use in the future.