Scholarship

Continuing The Change

“Beep! chirp chirp beep!” A 5:30 am alarm triggers and vibrates to wake up a growing person. Although every day began at the same time, I value each day for its different insight. As exhausting as it is to wake up before the sunlight shines upon the trees, I do it anyway. The muscles feel too fatigued and cold to be planted on the ground, but my attitude of determination, perseverance, and strength of character provide me with the courage to stand up for life’s daily lesson. My name is Kane Billy. My tribe Diné, which translates, “the people.” I am confident, respectful, and meticulous in my actions. When it comes to my education, I do my best to succeed. I am a human being growing and learning from many aspects of wisdom from my father, my community, and more importantly, my own mistakes.

During the dark, silent, and still mornings, I have a pattern of discipline to wake up very early and train my mind, body, and spirit. Moreover, Bruce Lee, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi, Buddha, Confucius, Laozi, and many more incredible individuals have made a huge impact on my development. These individuals inspires, motivates, and encourages me to push forward for tomorrow. Although, most people that give me the courage needed every day to ride to school in the cold mornings on my skateboard; and, not to quit on my education are my family. “Respond with understandment. Don’t respond to reply” (Clinton Billy). With research, data, and dedication; that homework problem or question will be understood. Likewise, my dad’s piece of wisdom that has made a huge impact on my development when growing up as a kid. He
taught me to pursue knowledge and to never stop expanding your horizons for education.

Moreover, being raised by my father has taught me many lessons, experiences, and guidance from his own mistakes for my future to be bright. Being awarded this scholarship will not only benefit in making a change in my community; but, will allow me to give back to my family.

Being part of a family, is like being a part of any group; learning to give in and give back, to lead and to follow. A time where I used my leadership skills was at a music performance, that took place in the spring of 2018. The music group that I was performing alongside with struggled to continue the piece with ease, excitement, or expression. While I was on stage, I noticed that my group was missing parts of the piece, which caused the sound to be quiet and unspoken. So, I used my self-expression of making the piece stay strong and continue throughout without it crashing during the performance. I stepped into the role of lead guitar and carried our group. This event was a time in my life where my well-rounded knowledge of leadership skills played a role to help my music performance succeed. Some rewards I have received from school consists of my music achievements and academic grades. I have also been fortunate enough to receive a workshop scholarship at UNM for Flamenco guitar. I studied and learned from Paco Iglesias alongside my high school guitar teacher. I have also maintained an honorable attendance and I will receive the academic and musical honors cord for when I graduate in May of 2019. This scholarship will benefit in my education and success because it will grant me with many opportunities for my future. As a result, this scholarship is a step and a process for my education, exploration in the arts, and an opportunity to make a change in my community.

“It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity” (Albert Einstein). I know that I will succeed and struggle in college like Albert Einstein did in his
years of school. However, when I use my resources like studying, being focused, and motivated to succeed; the rigorous school work will be done with ease. This scholarship will help me pay for books and my major of computer science. My fascination regarding computers and technology grows everyday and continues to excite me into pursuing the field. I am currently taking college algebra at the University of New Mexico as a dual credit student to jump-start my path towards computer science. The reason why I chose this major is because I would like to be a part of society's growing use and understanding of technology.

At the University of New Mexico I am taking not only college algebra to jump-start my path of computer science; but also, introduction to the navajo language to expand my horizon about my Native American heritage. My Native American heritage has made an impact on my life because of the culture, beliefs, and traditions it has to offer. This class provides me with more understanding on the Navajo language. Moreover, it helps and brings me closer when communicating with my elders and other Native Americans. My culture has shaped me to be confident, respectful, and a meticulous individual because it shows me patience in nature. The belief in my culture informs me on an understanding of how the world came to be and how life was brought upon this world. The traditions of being Native American brought my family closer when celebrating events. This will not be the end when learning my Native American heritage. I am going to further continue my journey in the Navajo language, culture, and traditions while in school.

My exploration of culture has also brought me involvement in my community. The "9th Doña Predicanda Perea 2018 Encuentro de Medicina Tradicional" was an insightful, impactful, and rewarding experience to contribute in my community. This event took place October 13,
2018. Continuing, this event is about uniting the community to heal the children; heal those in distressed, and uplift those who are oppressed. I arrived in the morning to help set up the workshops, clean around the area, and communicate with my community. This event was a rewarding experience for me because it showed me the culture, traditions, and wisdom of their beliefs. I am thankful that I participated in this event and I am going to further continue my contribution to the community be sharing my knowledge, wisdom, and a helping hand.

To conclude, I have helped provide my assistance to my community center, helped my school with art shows and musical performances, and provided my full attention and ears for any individual on the bus or streets that may cross my path. This scholarship will benefit in my education and success because it will grant me with many opportunities for my future. The funding will be used on textbooks, transportation, and supplies for my hobbies of interest. By birth I have been placed in the categories of special needs, hearing impaired, and a minority of less than middle class. I believe myself to be a human being set to help not only myself but others. Moreover, these attributes don't hold me back in my academics. It may have pushed me to this moment causing this scholarship to be a step and a process towards education, arts, and an opportunity to make a change in my community.