

Bailey Whitfield

Address and Phone
Number Removed

June 29, 2011

The National Alumni Association
Scholarship Department
P. O. Box 861928
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486

Dear Alumni Association:

My name is Bailey Whitfield, and I am very excited to be an incoming freshman at the University of Alabama for the fall of 2011. I would like to thank you, *tremendously*, for awarding me with the Shelby County Chapter Endowed Scholarship. My family and I were thrilled when we received this wonderful news!

I am from Leeds, Alabama, and a graduate of the Class of 2011 from Chelsea High School. In high school, I participated in honors and advanced placement coursework as well as dual enrollment, which allowed me to get a few college credit hours under my belt. I was captain of the Chelsea High School Stars dance team for two years and participated as a member of the team for four consecutive years. I was also a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, where I qualified for state competition all four years and won a state-wide award as a junior qualifying me to compete at the national level. As a sophomore, I was nominated by the administration and faculty of my school to participate in a county-wide student ambassador program known throughout the state as Youth Leadership Shelby County. Before graduating from this program in the spring of my junior year, I had the opportunity to explore many career options, expand my leadership skills, and get to know student leaders from other high schools in our county.

That same year, I applied for another important group in my school called Peer Helpers. The Peer Helpers play a big part in the atmosphere of our school. As a Peer Helper, I assisted with Freshman Orientation, gave informational tours and assistance to new students, participated in several community service projects, and was able to partner with Campfire USA to host an "Inside-Out" Day held at Chelsea Middle School. At this event, we talked about bullying and peer pressure and tried to cover issues that were important to the middle school students.

I learned so much from this experience and enjoyed being a mentor to the kids in my small group that day.

In addition, to the clubs and organizations I already mentioned, I was also involved in Key Club, Student Government Association, Class Officers, and Students Against Destructive Decisions.

I was raised in a Christian-based home where my sister and I were taught the importance of dedication to family, church, and school. My mom serves as the Youth Pastor at our church and is a Shelby County Board of Education employee. My dad has always worked in the construction industry but because of the poor economy, he lost his job about a year ago. Although my parents are very hard workers, financial stability has always been a struggle for us. Because of this, I see that a college education is priceless because it will affect the rest of your life. This scholarship is more of a blessing to me and my family than you will ever know. I am determined to complete my college education and will work very diligently to be a successful student at the University.

I plan to major in Exercise and Sports Science at the Capstone and hope to become a fitness trainer, dietician, or even a Physical Therapist. I would love to get involved in many organizations on campus such as the Avanti Leadership Team, Freshman Forum, and Campus Student Ministries. I am very excited about my next four years at the greatest school in the country and feel so blessed to have the opportunity to be a University of Alabama student. Thank you so much for this award! The generosity of the Shelby County Chapter of the Alumni Association will help make my dreams of a college education become a reality!

Sincerely,



Bailey N. Whitfield