

## Amara's First Year in College...

**Amara Payne** was PSWRC-NAHRO's first scholarship award winner. Nominated by the Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa as an entry into the region's inaugural scholarship contest in 2019, Amara successfully won our regional contest and was awarded an annual \$1,000 scholarship award to apply towards her tuition, supplies, and other related expenses for four (4) years as long as she remains in good academic standing. Additionally, Amara was submitted by the region to the National contest where she won an additional \$1,000 award from NAHRO as well as an additional \$1,000 award from NAHRO's partner LDG! As the region's award winner, Amara's application was submitted to NAHRO's national contest where she won an additional \$2,000 in awards from NAHRO and NAHRO's partner LDG!

We recently heard from Amara and she shared how her first year in college with us...

"Overall, my first year at Los Medanos College was great. The first semester was tough for me because I was trying to adjust to the transition from high school to college. With one semester under my belt, the Spring semester went much more smoothly, and I performed much better academically because I had acclimated and knew what to expect and how to adjust to a full-time college course load. This past summer, I enrolled in summer courses, and I loved the challenge! As you can see, I managed to rise to the occasion, and I received good marks.

This upcoming Fall semester, I am excited about as I have enrolled in four (4) courses. I am amazed at just how quickly time flies; I feel like I just graduated! Next Fall (2021), I will be applying to various Nursing programs because, at that point, I should be finishing all of my prerequisites.

I want to thank PSWRC again for providing me with this scholarship opportunity. It has been a tremendous help in assisting me with handling any financial responsibilities that college has."