

Jai Mathis

Dear PACE Scholarship Committee:

Professional Achievers for Community Excellence mission "To make a difference in their community through service, coupled with friendship and mutual support" has become a philosophy that I follow and live by. Growing up in a Christian home, my family has always instilled in me to place God in the center of everything I do. My grandfather showed by example the "Call to Service". The expectation was to serve others and share my blessings.

The importance of solidarity in service is essential. There are limits to what only one person can do, however when a group comes together and realize the benefits of serving a community more can be accomplished. As a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Encounters Youth Group, I have participated in various Community service projects, one being "Clean Up the Park" where the sisterhood of teenage girls worked collectively to beautify a local park to ensure that the kids and adults could enjoy their neighborhood. Being a member of Project Still I Rise, Inc. assisting in Back-to-school backpack giveaways to help less fortunate children; Volunteering at the church's Food bank, personally preparing meals and delivering them to the homeless among other volunteerism experiences, have assisted me in recognizing there is truly Service in Numbers! These groups have helped me become more assertive in my quest for college and allowed me to meet astonishing and positive people who have similar success goals as myself.

Fall 2020 will begin a new phase on my journey. I am not expecting college to be the easiest thing I've ever done, but I am expecting to approach it just as I have in my past; with hard work, patience, and a smile. As a recipient of this incredible scholarship, I will use the proceeds to attend a HBCU and apply it towards the expenses of books, laboratory materials and housing. This will allow me to be closer to fulfilling my dream of making a difference in my community, as I await the day to be proudly known as Jai Imani Mathis, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

Thank you in advance for considering my application. I hope to hear from you soon.