

## **Chae Bunn**

From the time I knew how to read and write, my parents instilled in me that college was not an option. From an early age I knew that if I wanted to have a bright future, college had to be a priority. I watched my own mother struggle to juggle three kids, a full-time job, and getting her bachelor's degree. She didn't do it in the "traditional" way, but her perseverance showed me the importance of a college education. When I think of college, the first word that comes to mind is opportunity. Being African American and also a young woman, I grew up learning to appreciate education, and to never take it for granted. As a minority in the United States, every day I fight against the stereotype that the majority of African Americans are uneducated. Graduating from high school is the first step to showing people that I am.

The Lockridge Scholarship is important to me because although I have always known that college is expensive, I don't think people realize how much of an investment it is. Although the minimum education requirement for most jobs today is a bachelor's degree, many people are deterred from earning a degree because of the cost. It gives kids like me a chance to further their education and one day contribute to society in a positive way. This scholarship puts me one step closer to being a successful member of society in the near future.