



Support Local Students In Reaching THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Written by Rachael Eichner

Bellevue LifeSpring's goal is to close the graduation gap for Bellevue students from low-income households by supporting their basic needs through programs that provide food, clothing, education, and emergency assistance. When students' basic needs are met, they are able to focus on their education and have the opportunity to thrive. Our partnership with the Points community supports a path to stability and self-sufficiency for Bellevue students.

Meet Alondra

Alondra, a Bellevue LifeSpring college scholarship recipient, graduated from Eastern Washington University this past June! She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, a minor in Sociology, and a minor in Spanish – and that's not all. Alondra also earned a certificate in Addiction Studies: Suicide Assessment, Treatment, and Management.

Thanks to the support of Points neighbors and community members, Bellevue LifeSpring provided Alondra with college scholarships for all four years of her studies. "Bellevue

LifeSpring has been a huge support for my education," shared Alondra. "Without the big financial burden, I was able to focus and do very well in my classes. It also gave me the time to join clubs and gain experience through volunteer work, such as volunteering at a homeless shelter in Spokane. I am very thankful for the opportunities given to me as a result of the scholarship."

One of the best parts of the college scholarship is witnessing the transformational journey students go through. During Alondra's sophomore year, she shared with Bellevue LifeSpring that she had made it on the Dean's List for multiple quarters and had attributed this success to the support of the scholarship. "I am able to focus my energy toward my education, volunteering, and supporting causes that I share values with," she says.

Despite all the challenges brought on by the pandemic during her final year of college, Alondra succeeded! She expressed her gratitude for her Bellevue community helping her along

the way. As she points out, "Without community, it can be difficult to find the support needed to succeed. When I think of community, I think of people working together with a common goal or value to achieve an outcome. For example, a community valuing its students and supporting their success."

What's next for Alondra? She will be pursuing her master's degree in Social Work and hopes to work with the Latinx population in the Puget Sound area. She adds, "Thank you to all the people who helped organize this scholarship! I hope the community realizes how much of a great impact this has on students like me."

Help Set Students like Alondra Up for Success This School Year

Students have recently returned to school following a challenging year of remote learning and a global pandemic. Bellevue students from low-income households are continuing to feel the economic impacts of COVID-19. Since March of 2020, Bellevue LifeSpring has seen food assistance requests increase by 50%, and rental assistance requests triple. Bellevue LifeSpring's wrap-around approach is helping set students up for success.

Learn how you can support a pathway towards a brighter future for Bellevue students at www.bellevuelifespring.org.