

Dear Mr. Withrow:

I am writing as an alumnus of UBSUC (Hiram Johnson West Campus Sacramento, CA. c/o 2000) to say hello and provide an update on myself since graduating from service with the Union. Right after high school, I started attending California State University, Sacramento (hereafter CSUS), where I majored in Kinesiology (the study of muscles). I planned to be a Physical Therapist, but life took me into a different direction and my heart turned toward caring for children. In my junior year, I changed my major to Child Development and graduated with my B.A. in 2005.

I then went on to serve a year in the Americorps program. Americorps is a voluntary national service program that concentrates on community service. The aspect of Americorps I served in was under the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, Inc. My service site was at the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries. The program is designed to help build job skills and serve communities across the nation. There are many different types of Americorps programs in which students can serve. The program offers a bi-weekly stipend and an education award that varies depending on the amount of time served within the program. A full time service term, which is what I did, lasts for 11-12 months and offers an education award of \$4,725.00 for student loan repayment or tuition payments. There are part time service terms available also. More information can be found at www.americorps.org. I believe this would be a great resource for UBSUC students because it offers them the opportunity to earn money for college education and gain valuable experience doing something they enjoy.

After serving in Americorps, I was accepted into the Social Work masters program at CSUS, where I have just finished my first year. I applied for the Title 4-E stipend program that pays a total of \$18,500 per year to Social Work graduate students interested in working for the Child Welfare System. This program does not require any repayment of the money awarded, only that the recipient works for the Child Welfare System in California for each year they receive the stipend. I have been able to complete an internship with Sacramento County CPS and look forward to my next internship with State Adoptions. The best part of this program is that I have a guaranteed position waiting for me upon graduation.

I would like to attribute my success in part to the sense of pride and determination I was taught during my participation in UBSUC. One moment that stands out is when the UBS chapter I was a member of won the Knowledge Bowl. Studying about the hundreds of African Americans who made monumental contributions to this country inspired me to continue the legacy of success they founded. I hope the current UBSUC members can be just as inspired as I was to “fight on ‘til victory is won.”

Sincerely,

Santrice Davis, UBSUC 1996-2000