

Dear Conference Committee Members,

I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the EdChoice Scholarship Program and how grateful I am to receive it. I am a widow with a 15-year-old daughter who attends Padua Franciscan High School in Parma. My late husband was 18 when he was first diagnosed with cancer thus did not have the opportunity to qualify for life insurance. I am borrowing to make ends meet in order to keep the home we shared with him. We don't take vacations or live extravagantly. I drive a 2009 Kia Sportage which needs new struts.

When we initially looked at kindergarten, we looked at the Public school she would attend. It was half day kindergarten teaching her things she already knew. It would not have benefited her for us to send her there.

Receiving the scholarship means that my daughter is able to attend Padua with her elementary school classmates. She loves Padua! She has received honors each semester she has been attending. Padua not only provides her with the course study she needs to prepare her for college but it has given her an extended family. She has thrived at Padua because of the environment.

The magnitude of receiving the scholarship so that she may continue to attend Padua, and realize her dream of one day attending Ohio State is not lost on me. She knows that she must maintain her grades in order to continue to go to Padua. I have told her that if she loses her scholarship, I won't be able to send her there anymore, which would be traumatic. She has gone through so much already with losing her father; her friends and teachers are part of her support system. It would be devastating for her if she is not able to attend Padua.

In closing, I wanted to let you know how grateful I am that some of my tax dollars are following my daughter to her school. Thank you again for the opportunity.

Thank you,

Terri Semancik