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Sl

November 2021



Dear Mary,

As a high school student growing up in Arizona, I knew I wanted to be a teacher. Working with people has always given me energy and motivation and that's especially true with kids. I had no idea what college to attend in order to pursue my dream. I applied to schools in my home state, as well as in Oregon, but it wasn't until I met an admissions counselor from PLU at a college fair that I was introduced to the idea of becoming a Lute. I had never been to Washington before and had no friends or family there. But after attending Lute OverKnight I knew that there was no other school for me.

Now, I'm in my senior year majoring in Elementary Education with a dual endorsement in Reading and English Language Learning. Thanks to PLU's Education Program, I'm doing my student teaching in third grade at Brookdale Elementary here in Tacoma. In addition to my studies, I am an Admissions Ambassador, as well as a Career Peer Educator. I truly love connecting with other students and sharing my passion for PLU. Washington has become my home, and I'm looking forward to staying in our community as an educator after I graduate.

I know it sounds cliche, but **there is nothing more special than PLU's community**. The size of our campus has allowed me to create lasting relationships, not only with my peers but also with staff and faculty. It was scary moving to Tacoma on my own, but I always felt that I could be myself here and this community has loved me for who I am since the day I stepped foot on campus.

As I reflect on my PLU journey, one thing that I will always remember is that the PLU community invests in people as people. I'm not just seen through my one identity as a student. I'm seen and valued as a teacher, a tour guide, a friend, a daughter, a person. Within the PLU community, **you are recognized for everything that you are and everything that you will become** because of the potential you bring to the community. That is a value that I will always take with me as I look forward to life after graduation and to being part of this community in a new way.

Thank you for investing in people like me. I am grateful to be part of your community, and for you to be part of mine.

Happy Holidays, Kameelah Jackson '22





Yes, I am invested in our PLU community and students like Kameelah!

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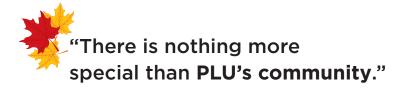
Please mark any corrections: Ms. Mary Q. Sample, 123 Main Street, Anytown, US 12345-6789, marysample@gmail.com, (800) 555-1212



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