



Date

Dear Salutation,

When you were just starting out thinking about your future, what did you want to do?



Hi, I'm Justise Wattree. Building on my high school experience in the All-State Honor Choir, I started out at San José State University as a music major. However, experiences and opportunities that gifts from generous people like you enabled led me to change my major to Humanities with minors in African American Studies and Public Health, and start to map out my future. **I'm urging you to please give to the SJSU Fund today because you will be enabling access to activities, services and programs that help students like me successfully map out and work toward futures that are good not only for our families, but our communities as well.**

Helping my community is always on my mind. Last spring, I proudly represented SJSU in the statewide student CSU RSCA (Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity) contest with my project, "The Two-Front War: Self-Help and Black Health Activism during the Spanish Flu, HIV/AIDS, and COVID-19." I'm now looking forward to the January publication of my paper on lessons that can be applied to our current pandemic from looking at HIV prevention within Black churches.

These invaluable experiences and more flowed from programs offered at SJSU, such as the Humanities Honors general education program and the McNair Scholars program. When you give to the SJSU Fund, you are helping students have access to similar programs and activities that not only enhance our education, but have life-changing effects on our futures.

Speaking of the future, this semester I plan to apply for my master's degree in public health. I also intend to obtain a Ph.D. in public health. I want to do research on HIV and its impact on the Black community. I hope to be someone who helps address racial health disparities. I would like to be a professor who impacts people's lives, just as Dr. Cynthia Rostankowski impacted mine. She was the guiding force in my educational career as she shared insights and career options with me, helped me change my major, and was always there for me.

San José State has an abundance of great professors like Dr. Rostankowski who are instrumental in career guidance and general support in and out of the classroom. I

(over)



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encourage you to make your gift to the SJSU Fund because you will be partnering with our professors to support us and enhance our education.

<Salutation>, a college education frequently seems out of reach financially, even if we work hard at jobs such as mine at the Hammer Theatre Center and Chipotle. **Did you know your SJSU Fund gifts make college possible each year for five incoming students who receive the Annual Giving Spartan Pride Scholarship?** You can be proud that this fall, 29 students are receiving this ongoing scholarship as they work hard to keep up their grades!

Please make your gift to the SJSU Fund today because you will be helping hardworking students have the scholarships, programs, activities and services that have a life-changing impact on their futures and that of their communities.

Thank you,



Justise Wattree
Humanities '23

P.S. <Salutation>, please make your gift to the SJSU Fund today to help make college and life-changing opportunities possible for SJSU students. You also can give securely online at giving.sjsu.edu or join our recurring giving program, *Spartans United*, at SpartansUnited.org. Thank you!

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The information you provide will be used for university business and will not be released unless required by law. All gifts are fully deductible to the extent allowed by law. For additional information, please contact the Office of Annual Giving at 408-924-6515 or alumni@sjsu.edu.

We enjoy knowing what our alumni are doing and invite you to share your personal and/or professional updates.

I am interested in information on other ways to give:

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The university greatly appreciates your support and, unless otherwise instructed, plans to recognize donors in various publications.

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