

Thank you so much for the opportunity to apply for this award! My name is Sarah Lucas, I am a 38-year-old mother of 4(only 1 at home with me) and I will graduate in May 2021 with an AS degree in Accounting from Butte College. I am a member of the Accounting Club and also participate in many activities including counseling and therapy for both myself and my child, managing a new chronic illness, and other self-care and healing groups. I am very excited to start my new life and this award will enable me to take part in many professional organizations.

Winning this award would allow me to pay for membership in the American Institute of Professional Bookkeepers and the American Payroll Association. These organizations will allow me to sit for National Certification examinations in several subjects in my field, which are highly valued by employers. Membership also grants me access to newsletters and trade magazines, providing timely and up to date information. I would have access to webinars, conferences, podcasts and other networking opportunities, which are so vital in the business world. Finally, I would get discounted rates on continuing education classes and advanced certification examinations that I can only take after having various amounts of on-the-job experience. Having these memberships and certifications under my belt before I even graduate will give me quite an edge above other applicants. My first job after graduation could offer a higher salary or other benefits, that would, of course, go straight to my family.

Many people take having a "normal" 9 to 5 desk job for granted. To me, it is a whole new world, both scary and full of opportunity. The benefits to my family, my self-esteem and worth, and to my children's eyes, seeing that it is never too late to start over, do better and succeed, is immeasurable. Thank you again for this opportunity and for offering it for women like me. It will not go to waste!