

Ama-Nhyira Aduampong is an ambitious and determined young woman committed to achieving her goals. Receiving this scholarship has brought her one step closer to completing college and building the future she has worked hard to create. Ama is originally from Ghana and now resides in the Bronx. She attended Collegiate Institute for Math and Science located in the Bronx where she became a part of a community that fostered her transition to overall confidence in herself. As a freshman, Ama moved from the South Bronx to the East Bronx, which was a major turning point as it pushed her to develop connections and come out of her shell in an area she was unfamiliar with. Over those four years, she blossomed from a young woman filled with self-doubt into someone who had gained genuine confidence by the end of her senior year. She recognized how much she had grown by accomplishing things she once would not have imagined herself doing, such as running for leadership positions such as secretary of National Honor Society and joining extracurriculars beyond her usual interests like Soccer, Shoe Designing Club, Young Women's Leadership, Community Service Club, and Senior Committee. Ama was also fortunate to have great friends who always supported one another throughout high school and reminded each other that the sky is the limit, in the same way Ama hopes to develop those same kinds of lifelong relationships in college.

Ama heard about this opportunity from one of the scholarship's past recipients, Stephanie Kusi, who attends the same church as Ama. Ama was genuinely drawn to the mission and goals of the Kappa Epsilon Zeta Scholarship Fund, and found the sorority's principles incredibly inspiring. In addition to this the application was not complicated and was easy to complete which made the process immensely smoother. The Kappa Epsilon Zeta Scholarship Fund's strong commitment to community service deeply resonated with Ama, as serving and uplifting others is also one of her core values. To Ama, community service means being able to lift up those who need it most. Ama's sister runs a non-profit organization in Ghana called Widows Honor, which supports men and women who have lost a spouse. The organization assists them with food, clothing, and other daily necessities as they navigate life after a loss. Working alongside her sister allows her to pause and reflect on everything she has to be grateful for. The world isn't always fair, but Ama believes that if you can make a positive impact through service, you are helping to make the world a better place.

For the next four years, Ama will attend the University of New Haven majoring in Dental Hygiene with hopes of becoming a dentist one day. This school felt like the perfect fit from the moment she visited for Accepted Students Day. During her visit, she had the opportunity to practice hands-on dental hygiene techniques and use professional instruments, which made her even more excited about the program. She was also drawn to the university's energetic atmosphere and its strong commitment to student success, inclusion, and experiential learning. In

addition, the school is close enough to home, offers an accelerated track that would allow her to earn both her bachelor's and master's degrees in five years before attending dental school, and awarded her a scholarship that will significantly reduce the financial burden of her education.

Ama encourages incoming high school seniors to begin planning for college over the summer rather than waiting until the school year starts. She recommends taking time to research possible majors, affordability, and location, while also reaching out to schools with questions, attending college fairs, and building meaningful connections. Most importantly, she believes students should remain confident in their abilities. Ama nearly missed an opportunity with the QuestBridge Enrichment Program because she doubted herself, but someone else recognized the potential she had not yet learned to see. That experience taught her to have faith in herself, trust her abilities, and put in the work required to reach her goals.

Just as the Kappa Epsilon Zeta Scholarship Fund has provided Ama with the opportunity to pursue her education, she hopes to one day give back and create similar opportunities for other determined students. After establishing her career as a dentist, she envisions creating her own scholarship fund dedicated to supporting students pursuing higher education in STEM fields, particularly those who face financial or systemic barriers to opportunity. Beyond financial assistance, she hopes to build a more holistic support system that includes mentorship, academic guidance, and access to professional networks that can help students navigate their educational and career paths with confidence and make their success story even brighter than it already is.