

WesternU



Meet Brianna

2023 Recipient of the
WesternU Board of Trustees Scholarship



Dear WesternU Trustees:

My abundant thanks to you for providing this opportunity for study through the WesternU Board of Trustees Scholarship for economically disadvantaged students.

I am honored and grateful to be an African-American woman who now has a chance to change the status of underrepresented students in the health science professions. As a minority woman who has endured homelessness, financial hardship, and food insecurity, this generosity opens doors for me to pursue a veterinary medicine career.

This scholarship will assist me with tuition, books, supplies, and housing. It alleviates me to focus on my studies without constant fear of financial setbacks. As a child of an incarcerated father and a homeless mother, there is no support from my family for any of the above. Your contribution impacts me and other disadvantaged students to continue their education regardless of the economic hurdles they face. It gives hope to future candidates to pursue health science careers they are passionate about.

As I continue my education to become a board-certified veterinary specialist, I plan to mentor and educate future veterinarians and volunteer my skills to help underprivileged communities. With my degree, I can treat patients competently and inspire and encourage others to follow my chosen field. As I journey toward my profession, I plan to become a scholarship donor for others like me who are underrepresented and need financial assistance. In this way, your generous giving to the less fortunate can help me "Pay it Forward" to those who dream of pursuing higher education. You will impact me and future generations, and I will always be thankful for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Brianna Etienne
DVM Class of 2027

Learn More About
Brianna Etienne, DVM 2027
\$30,000/year Award Recipient



Hometown:	Chicago, Illinois
Undergrad:	Florida International University
Degrees:	Biological Sciences
Hobbies/Interests:	Drawing, Singing, Reading, Dancing, etc.
Previous Career/Job:	Veterinary Technician

What inspired you to pursue your health sciences career path? As a child, I had a passion for science. Once, I found an injured rabbit and felt the helplessness of being unable to save it. At age eight, I decided to learn how to care for needy animals. This desire grew with time and became a career path I knew would become my life's work. Later as a veterinary technician, interactions with clients and their pets only increased my passion to pursue my studies toward this goal.

What is the biggest challenge you overcame on your path to WesternU? Pursuing my Bachelor's degree during COVID was challenging. I struggled with receiving instructions virtually, coupled with the dorm closing. I moved back to Illinois, where I had relatives but only welcomed for a few days in each household. I overcame the disruption by blocking out the changing environments and devoting myself to my studies. I felt relieved when COVID lessened, and I graduated on schedule.

Why did you choose to attend WesternU? I was intrigued by the fact that WesternU students are taught in small groups rather than in a sizeable setting. The virtual classes during COVID solidified my dislike of depersonalized learning, so I knew this was a good fit. I also found the DVM graduation and board passing rates impressive, including that 90% of students had guaranteed jobs before graduating.

What is your proudest accomplishment? Being the first in my family to obtain a Bachelor's degree and now pursuing a DVM is a massive accomplishment. Coming from a poverty immersed family, I never thought I could achieve my career dreams, but I never ceased trying. My success shows that dedication and perseverance can go a long way when you are determined and disciplined.