

Dear Tournament of Friendship Members,

My name is Tamika Lofton and I am from Detroit, MI, where I was raised by my grandmother. My home life in Detroit made me want to go into a career in Law Enforcement, and as early as high school I knew I wanted to become a Police Officer. I initially set my mind on working for the Detroit Police Department, simply because I did not know much about other Departments. My cousin talked me into applying to Michigan State University (MSU) during their on-site admissions program at my high school. Upon being accepted into MSU my Advisors reached out to me and talked to me about what the first year would be like, and they worked with me closely from that point forward to help me succeed.

The Criminal Justice program at MSU helped me network within the Law Enforcement field by helping me to apply for ride-a-longs with agencies all over the Lansing, East Lansing, Metro Detroit, and Ann Arbor areas. My Advisors also connected me with different agencies to gain relevant knowledge about Policing, and in 2013 I was granted the opportunity to serve as an intern with the Lansing Police Department. This was an eye-opening experience that I am so very grateful I had the opportunity to take advantage of as a college student.

In 2014, I applied for and was awarded the Tournament of Friendship Scholarship, which I was very grateful for. The scholarship provided me with funding that helped to pay for my required coursework. It came at a critical time for me as well, because my financial aid was running very low and I was worried about whether I would even be able to stay at MSU to complete my studies. The scholarship allowed me to continue my education at MSU during my final year, which I am truly grateful for.

My upcoming plans are to go into Law Enforcement and hopefully work for the Lansing Police Department, where I had conducted my internship. It has been a dream of mine for many years, and this August I will be attending the Mid-Michigan Police Academy. My future plans are to get hired in with the Lansing Police Department, where I can dutifully serve the citizens of Lansing. My hope, as my career progresses, is to work for some of the numerous specialized divisions they have, such as S.W.A.T., which is known as S.T.A.R.T. at the Lansing Police Department. I would also like to work for their Fugitive Team and I aspire to end my career as a Homicide Detective. My desire is to help as many people as I can during my career, while working with the city of Lansing to build up relationships between community members and Police Officers.

I am extremely thankful for the Criminal Justice program at MSU and my Advisors for helping me to accomplish my goals. And I am also extremely grateful to the Tournament of Friendship for their generous scholarship. It provided me with assistance at a time when I thought there may be none, and it has also motivated me even further to be the best Police Officer that I can be throughout my upcoming career.

Respectfully,

Tamika Lofton