

My name is Annika Schimmack and I am a senior at Chugiak High School. Please accept my application and the following essay for the 2022 June Nelson Memorial Scholarship.

I believe that it is everyone's duty to support equity and inclusion and to do our best to make sure that all people are treated fairly and respectfully. The ways that I can advocate for others are as follows:

- I can listen when necessary and speak up when necessary.
- I can choose to not be passive, but instead take action as needed.
- I can choose to advocate for fair treatment and equal pay for all people, whether in the classroom, the workplace or in social settings.
- I can set a good example by my own words and actions that I believe all people should be included and respected.

I am a firm believer in treating all people equally and I am also very aware that this is not the case in much of the world today. I believe that my awareness sets me up to be a helper in situations where I see people being discriminated against. I do not keep my "head in the sand" and ignore these types of situations, instead I choose to be involved in resolving conflicts and issues as I see them.

I have chosen leadership positions within my high school that have allowed me to lead by example when it comes to addressing racism, microaggressions and even issues like student hunger within our school. As president of the National Honor Society I led the chapter in starting a student food pantry which is housed in the Chugiak High School library. I organized food drives to stock the shelves and I made sure to set up the food pantry in a way that no one would be embarrassed or judged if they needed to access the food. Thinking through situations and taking care of other people's feelings is one way in which I can show support and respect for all people, regardless of gender, race, sexual identity and income status.

I have actively chosen a path in my life that will always support diversity and inclusion and respect.

Thank you for accepting my application.

Annika Schimmack

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