

Greetings to Who it May Concern,

My name is Narose Martha Jorren. I am a current student of Eastern Oregon University and the Oregon Health and Science University in La Grande. I am from the Marshall Islands, one of the many island countries in the Pacific. I came here in 2017, it wasn't until the Fall of 2018 that I started attending OHSU. Paying tuition for both makes me one of the many students that struggle with out-of-state tuition. The tuition rate for residents and non-residents has a huge gap in both schools. In addition, the out-of-state tuition rate for OHSU students is 3 times higher than the residents' tuition rate at EOU. The out-of-state tuition rate is doubled the tuition rate for resident students in both universities.

My goal in coming here is to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I attend EOU to fulfill the requirements I must meet to receive financial assistance from the local Scholarship Program in the Marshall Islands. In which the amount I receive is not enough to cover tuition. As a student, I struggle with my tuition and the bills that I must pay on my own. It is an added burden to me. The people from the Pacific Islands are classified in US applications and/or documents as eligible non-citizens. What does that mean? We can serve in the military just like any US citizen, but we are not held in the same regard as them or as exceptions.

Which brings me to bring up my situation; I am an island girl struggling with tuition. Since coming here in the Fall of 2017, I started working at the beginning of 2018 to support myself. From then and on, I am still working but I am still in debt with tuition for both schools paying out-of-state tuition. I must work part-time just like many students to have time for the classes I attend and for me to study which is a common thing. Another common thing is us islanders paying out-of-state tuition. My name was almost sent to Collection and my education in the US would have come to an end. I came thousands of miles from home to seek higher education and being in debt will prevent me from being successful in that. Furthermore, students from the Pacific Island countries are increasing and more will be coming. Decreasing out-of-state tuition will further call to many more to come.

I am requesting a decrease in tuition for out-of-state students. Because of debt intuition, it may take longer for me and the other students to acquire a bachelor's degree for we may need to take time off to pay tuition or stop completely. Which is sad, because this can be prevented for the betterment of the growing population of Pacific Islands students attending EOU. It is not disadvantageous for EOU to lower its out-of-state tuition rate for it shows its consideration for its diverse students. Please consider my testimonial letter.

Best Regards,

Narose Martha Jorren