WEENA DOYLE

2010 PECO Scholar

Remarks at the 2021 AAWC Annual Meeting

Hello Everyone! My name is Weena Doyle, I was the 2010 PECO Scholar, and I graduated from Drexel University in 2015. When I was asked, "What does the AAWC Scholarship mean to you?", the keywords that came to mind were financial responsibility and giving back to the community.

For those who are not familiar with Drexel's academic calendar, we follow a 4 quarter-system rather than a 2 semester-system. Therefore, textbook expanses were always on my mind when preparing for the start of the next quarter. When I realized in my freshman year that I did not have enough funds to purchase all my textbooks for Quarter 3, I knew I needed to be financially mindful for my remaining college years. Therefore, I devised a quarterly budget ($575/academic quarter and $50/co-op quarter) and collaborated with other students to pool funds and share textbooks. Every year when I received my PECO Scholar check, that check was always a humble reminder to me about being financially mindful and always giving back to the community.

Now I obviously do not receive these checks anymore, but those reminders have continued with me. Some of you may know I volunteer my time as an EMT with Narberth Ambulance, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit providing pre-hospital emergency care to Lower Merion, Narberth, Haverford, and the Conshohocken. Like all healthcare workers, COVID-19 has challenged us in unprecedented ways. Yet we too have responded by adapting and persevering through the toughest of times. From time to time when I have to interact with PECO due to a downed power line during a motor-vehicle accident, I get flashbacks to the days when I would receive my PECO check and be reminded once again, "be financially responsible and always remember to give back to the community – no matter how big or small that contribution may be".

I can never thank PECO enough for having selected me as their 2010 Scholar as it has truly been an honor and I hope I have served them proudly.