Melee Lee

ESL7 at CE Mesa

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My Dream

San Diego Continuing Education Classified Senate 2015 Scholarship Essay

Eight years ago, I came to America with my family to save my marriage due to a serious family conflict. I gave up my career as a medical doctor in Korea. At that time, I thought it was impossible to revive my career because my English was limited and I did not have enough confidence. However, my friends, my son, and my dreams have changed my thoughts and I wish to work as a doctor again.

Since I started attending ESL classes at SDCE in 2008, I have met many good people. Several, including my teacher, have inspired me in my career. They’ve encouraged me saying that I could make it. They’ve made me confident.

In the meantime, my son went to college and chose public health as his major. He made me think that I could-- and should-- also contribute to the community. After some research, I found out that even California has remote communities which are in dire need of doctors. I wish to work in such a community as a primary care physician.

However, I still need more English to communicate with patients. To improve my English, I come to school every day, and I work as a student-aide in the ESL office. For the U.S. Medical License Exam, I started to study. After I pass it, I am going to apply for family medicine residency at rural hospitals in impoverished areas.

Thanks to CE, my life is taking on a new meaning.