

Michael Long
Scholarship Recipient 2010/2011
2012 Scholarship Renewal Essay

Dear Give Kids a Chance scholarship committee,

I cannot express my gratitude in words for your kind contribution to my education. I write you today to ask for a renewal of the scholarship provided to me in 2010/11 for my undergraduate studies at New College of Florida. My financial standing has not changed and my ability to continue pursuing my education is dependent upon scholarship and financial aid. It could not come at a better time, when Bright Futures has been decreased by 20% and tuition increased by 30%.

In the fall of my first-year I decided to run for student body president, and was elected by my peers with great support. I fell in love with serving as a leader and resource for my peers and this past fall I decided to run for re-election. Fortunately, I was welcomed and given the opportunity to help shape our community for one more year.

My studies of environmental policy have been nothing short of fascinating. I thrive in New College's interdisciplinary education system; I have focused on fisheries management in courses like *Political Economy of the Global Environment* while concurrently strengthening my understanding of science through courses such as *Coral Reef Ecology* and *Cultural Biology*.

In addition, I have continued pursuing my love of sailing. As part of a great team effort, our sailing team qualified for the national championships last fall for the first time in our history. Sharing my discipline and knowledge with my fellow team members and watching them grow has been an incredible experience. In addition, this past January, I was afforded the opportunity to join a dear friend on a forty-day, 1,500-mile, sail throughout the Bahamian islands. There is no better way to foster inspiration for my studies of natural resource management than experiencing nature in such an intimate fashion.

Lastly, I was chosen by the student body presidents from every university in the state of Florida to serve on the Board of Governors. In this position, I have the opportunity and responsibility of representing over 330,000 students in the state of Florida. Through this position, I have taken an active role in statewide higher education governance. The articles below illustrate many of my experiences.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/education/college/article1201267.ece>

<http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/columns/move-to-amend-constitution-acts-against-public-interest/1216283>

<http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/gradebook/content/weekend-interview-michael-long-student-member-florida-board-governors>

Just three years ago I was picking up the pieces of my life while at AMI Kids' juvenile reform program. Today, I feel like I have begun fulfilling the vision I laid out for myself once picking up those pieces and I cannot thank you enough for giving me the opportunity to do so.

Warm Wishes,

