

Dear Mr. Rodney Cahill, and all those involved with the APWA Young Professional Student Scholarship:

I am Karl Clapp, a recipient of the APWA YP student scholarship, and a current student at Cabrillo College. The background of my story is quite esoteric, stemming from a family of commercial fisherman. No one in my family currently has a college degree, and my father did not graduate from High School. Throughout my time in High School I worked extremely hard and earned acceptance into the UW, Seattle, and an internship at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratories. Unfortunately, after two years, this all came to a screeching stop. I realized that Astro-Physics was not for me, my father had been having an affair which put extreme familial stressors on me in school, and I was young and immature and did not seek proper avenues of assistance for my stress and anxiety. Ultimately, I squandered my scholarship and education at UW, and joined the Navy.

In the Navy, I trained as a Special Warfare Nuclear Machinist Mate and Engineering Laboratory Technician. I rose to the top of my training program and was appointed crew leader by my crew Chief. Following years of training and successful operation, I was drugged and assaulted by my LPO. The PTSD and shame of the event led to extreme regression. I felt as though I could tell no one of the event that took place and attempted to internalize it. The inability to sleep led to the choice of utilizing a prescription I had been prescribed for my wisdom teeth, which helped me sleep temporarily. Following a Command Wide UA, I was ultimately discharged from the Navy for using a prescription medication beyond the usable window of time. Today, through the college application process, a young woman and fellow veteran opened up and shared with me her testimony, something happened within me, and she was the first tangible person that I felt comfortable sharing that event with. I am now currently working with my local VSO and have an active petition for an Honorable Discharge Upgrade.

Furthermore, throughout this long venture into higher education, I have experienced some pretty extreme life experiences. I spent three years after the Navy in complete shame and guilt and fished commercially in Alaska. Throughout those years, my isolation grew worse, and my family was concerned. They supported me in my travel to California to attend a local faith-based program. I worked during the day with Russel Maridon, a local Electrician and System Integrator, and operated and lived in a local homeless rescue mission at night for 16 months. Upon successful completion, the Maridon family encouraged me to return to school. For the majority of my time at Cabrillo I was working on the Ag-Rite system with Russel Maridon or working as a Carpenter's Apprentice to pay the bills. Furthermore, Russel's brother, Brian Maridon, a local architect, allowed me to trade work for rent as has provided me a housing situation because I would not be able to afford to live in Santa Cruz on my own and attend college.

In conclusion, Rodney and APWA, I just want to say thank you. I am currently in my last semester, the Spring 2019 semester, at Cabrillo. At this moment I am taking on 7 courses and 19 credits. I want to preface this next statement by saying that the last three years of my life seem to be surrounded by loving intervention and complete faith and hope. This thirty-year-old with a work ethic that borders the most extreme in the world, still found ways to doubt himself. As of today, I have been accepted by Sacramento State, Chico State, San Jose State, Cal Maritime Academy, and Cal Poly SLO for Mechanical Engineering, and I will hear back from Stanford on May 15th. Coming into this Spring semester, I had no idea of what kind of options I would have concerning acceptances. Furthermore, upon applying, I discovered that I needed to pick up two courses in order to be eligible for transfer. The

burden of those courses came in as an inability to work and support myself as I have in my previous semesters. It is only because of the Maridon's love and assistance, and the financial help that I have received from my APWA scholarship that have allowed me to take on this course load and move on with my education. I struggle to find the proper words to express my gratitude, so I will merely say thank you. However, I do wish it to be known that your grace and love will never go forgotten, and it has literally changed my life.

Very Respectfully

Karl Kristian Clapp