Dear Scholar:

As a recipient of a Florida Resident Access Grant, you are to be commended for making the choice to further your education. Since 1974, Florida taxpayers have assisted hundreds of thousands of students like you in pursuing their educational dreams. Across our state, opportunities are growing for Florida families, and furthering your education will certainly expand the opportunities you have to pursue your version of the American dream.

My top priority is making sure Florida families are able to get a great job and have access to a quality education. Throughout your higher education, I encourage you to always set goals. In my case, I started school living in public housing and watched my parents struggle financially. I wanted to secure a job that would pay well enough for me to build a family, and getting an education was essential to reaching that goal. I went to community college before joining the United States Navy, and after my military service, I graduated from college and law school. My education and my experience enabled me to practice law, buy a small business (a donut shop) for $7,500, and use the skills learned along the way to build successful companies.

From these experiences, I learned that success is not dependent upon where you start; it depends only on your willingness to work hard at obtaining the skills needed for success. By choosing to further your education, you have made a great start. The skills you learn and the individuals you meet will be valuable resources when applying for a permanent position. By working hard, gaining skills, and setting goals, many opportunities will open up for you, and I am confident your perseverance and hard work will pay off.

I encourage you to envision big dreams as you pursue success. I wish you all the best as you build on the education foundation you have received with the help of the Florida Resident Access Grant, and I look forward to your adding to the vitality of our great state.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
Governor