

# *My Scholar Story*

Mt SAC gave me the confidence to believe in a dream that many of the people around me—friends, loved ones, and even my family members—thought was impossible. My professors motivated me to ASPIRE towards a limitless future, giving their time to make me feel safe, welcome, and supported. The community of support that Mt. SAC embraced me with helped me realize the importance of mentorship and the implications that reaching out can have on an individual's life. As the first in my family to go to college and the only child out of 38 grandchildren to attain a graduate level degree, I am humbled at the privilege that I have been blessed with and overwhelmed by the favor God has shown me by opening Mt SAC's heart to receive me and take me in as its own. From Desiree Marquez, Liesel Reinhart, Zelda Bolden, Antoine Thomas, Wanda Fullbright-Dennis, Laura Gonzalez to Rosemary Rodriguez and the late Phillip Maynard, I continue to be in touch with my invaluable mentors from the Mt SAC community and look forward to returning home to give this opportunity back to the next generation of Mounties.

**Rikiesha Pierce**

Mt. SAC Scholarship Recipient, 2008

