

Ottaway Travel Scholarship - Scholarship Recipient (November 2025)

Virginia Western Community College & Laurel Ridge Community College

Dental Hygiene Program — DNH 230 Office Practice and Ethics

I applied for the Ottaway Travel Scholarship and was awarded the scholarship in November 2025 provided financial support that enabled Dental Hygiene students from Virginia Western Community College and Laurel Ridge Community College to travel to Richmond, Virginia, to participate in Rally Day. The scholarship funds were used to cover hotel accommodations and food expenses, ensuring that students enrolled in **DNH 230 Office Practice and Ethics** were able to participate without financial hardship. This support made the experience accessible and equitable for students from both institutions.

Participation in Rally Day directly aligned with the learning objectives of **DNH 230 Office Practice and Ethics**, which emphasizes professional responsibility, ethical decision-making, advocacy, and the role of dental professionals within the broader healthcare system. Through this experiential learning opportunity, students observed legislative processes, engaged in advocacy related to oral health and workforce issues, and gained insight into how policy decisions impact dental practice, patient care, and professional standards.

By traveling to Richmond, students were able to connect classroom-based discussions of ethics and professional conduct with real-world applications. The experience reinforced the importance of civic engagement, ethical leadership, and professional advocacy as core components of dental hygiene practice. Students gained an understanding of how dental hygienists can influence policy, represent their profession responsibly, and advocate for access to quality oral healthcare.

The Ottaway Travel Scholarship played a vital role in making this educational experience possible. By covering lodging and meals, the scholarship removed financial barriers that often limit student participation in off-campus and experiential learning activities. This support allowed students to focus on the educational purpose of Rally Day while fostering collaboration and shared learning between the Virginia Western and Laurel Ridge Dental Hygiene programs.

Overall, the Ottaway Travel Scholarship had a meaningful and measurable impact on students enrolled in **DNH 230 Office Practice and Ethics**. The funded travel to Richmond strengthened students' understanding of ethical practice, professional accountability, and civic responsibility. This experience enhanced course outcomes while reinforcing the mission of both institutions to prepare Dental Hygiene students who are informed, ethical, and engaged healthcare professionals.