

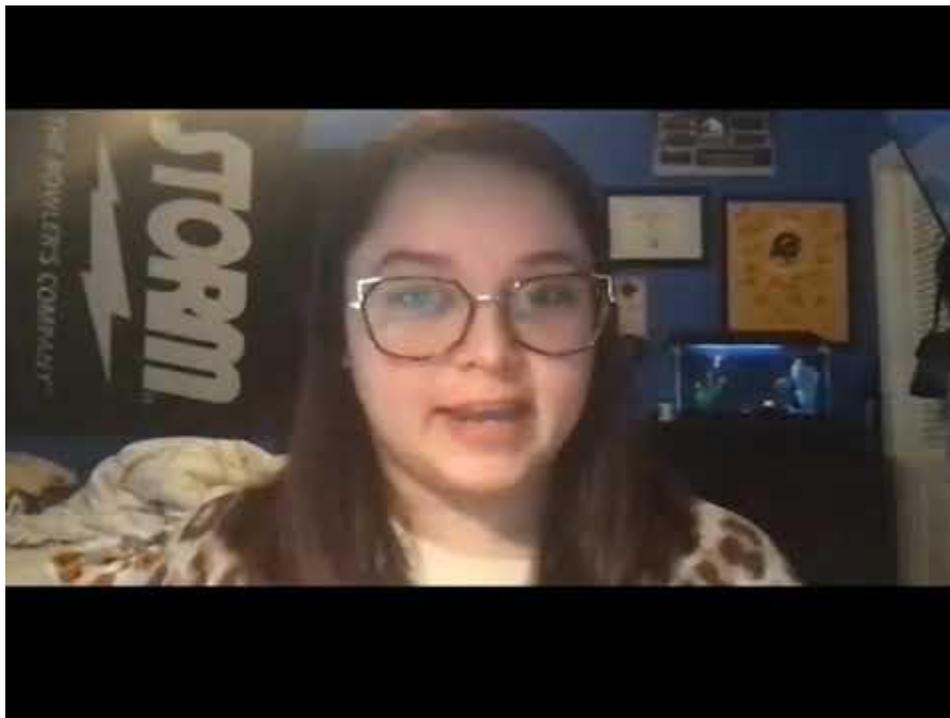


Danika Santiago
Judson University
Call One Scholarship



Danika Santiago hopes to land a spot in medical school in the near future. She will graduate at the end of the 2020 fall semester from [Judson University](#), Elgin, Illinois, a long way from her home in Puerto Rico and family members who live there and in Florida. How is it that she chose to attend Judson to study biology? The answer: Bowling.

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In 2017, a bowling coach from Judson visited Puerto Rico looking for recruits for the women's team and offered Santiago a scholarship. Santiago had been bowling since she was in fourth grade, something she started with friends just for fun. "I ended up being obsessed with it," she says. "I would practice most days. I would always be there after

school practicing. It developed from there. I've met a lot of people through it. My closest friends are because of bowling. So, bowling has given me a lot."

Santiago explained that she chose biology because she is a pre-med student, focused on possibly becoming a pediatric surgeon. "There's just something about children that has always inspired me," she says. "I work with children currently at a day care. I've always been about kids. I take care of children. Before my job now, I used to babysit kids all the time." When she was in high school, serving as president of the honor society, the group visited children at an orphanage and local hospitals.

In the fall of 2019, Santiago faced financial issues that could have sidelined her from attending Judson. Unable to borrow more money with a co-signer, she learned about the Call One Scholarship through ACI from the university. She got the scholarship last academic year and in 2020, she says. Without the Call One Scholarship, Santiago was facing \$500 to \$600 a month in tuition payments. "The difference means a lot. It really does. It went from me having to pay \$500 to \$600 per month, to only having to pay \$150," she says. She also gets financial help from loans funds provided by her mother, and holds jobs as a teacher's assistant at a day care facility and works as a server/front counter attendant at a bowling alley.

"We do appreciate every single penny that you put and you donate into scholarships like this because it does help us a lot," Santiago says. "In my case, it did contribute a lot into my decision of finishing school or not. So, it is because of (donors) and you that people like me are able to finish school. And I'm just very thankful for that and for all you do."