



**YOUR *life* • OUR PURPOSE**  
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.

**NAJAH WAKELAND**

*School of Nursing*

## BECAUSE YOU GAVE...

I have felt a calling for mental health since I was young. Originally, I thought I was going to pursue medicine, but nursing (and now becoming a nurse practitioner) has truly been my calling. I am honored to provide compassionate, holistic care for my patients, specifically those struggling with addiction. I love forming personal relationships with them, so they know they are more than their diagnoses and can truly overcome the battle of substance use. My patients are truly the best part of my job.

## WITH YOUR SUPPORT, I CAN...

As the sole breadwinner of my family, I use my income as a nurse to support my family, household, and education. This scholarship has reduced some of my financial burden, giving me some breathing room when it comes to my income. I will be able to focus on my studies without worrying quite as much about making ends meet.

## WHY I CHOSE TTUHSC...

Inside the classroom at TTUHSC, I have gained a wealth of knowledge from some of the best faculty I have ever had. I am honored to learn about mental health from these individuals who have so much professional and personal experience with all kinds of patients, jobs, and clinical situations. Outside the classroom, I have learned that one of the most important parts of my field is compassion - a lesson I will always carry with me. I am excited to hopefully take part in community outreach activities offered by TTUHSC before I graduate.