

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bellisario:

My name is Judah Jamison, and I am a recipient of the Donald P. Bellisario Trustee Scholarship at The Pennsylvania State University. Thank you for your generous donation that has helped me to return to my final year of college. My college experience thus far has been priceless and extremely memorable. As a student that pays out-of-state tuition, I greatly appreciate any and all financial support that I receive.

I began my journey as a student three years ago thinking that I wanted to be an engineer. I quickly discovered that this was not my forte. After visiting a friend in Los Angeles, I realized that I wanted to have a career in the music industry. I spent that time visiting record labels and being a “fly on the wall” during my friend’s meetings: I loved every second of it. Coming from a musical family, I have always been rhythmically talented playing instruments like the piano and drums. However, I never imagined that I could make a career out of the business that I loved the most, music. I soaked in as much information as I could during the week that I was in California, learning the specific details of the music industry. I went back home and researched diligently about the various jobs and responsibilities within the business. I read a book known as the “music industry bible” and am now able to hold informative conversations about any aspect of how the music business works.

After returning to State College, I spoke to my advisors and asked for guidance as to how to approach my new career path. The job that I wanted is called an “A&R,” which stands for artist and repertoire. This is the division of a record label that is responsible for talent scouting and branding an artist to that label. I will excel at this position because of my gifted ear for music and industry knowledge.

Technically, a college degree is not essential for an “A&R” job. However, I have been blessed to network and meet other individuals with the same interest in the music industry. I took a class called Comm 374 (Audio Production). In this class, I communicated to the professor, Jeff Brown, what I aspire to do for my career. He was able to help me land an internship with a radio station in State College known as 98.7 The FREQ. At this internship, I wrote about upcoming albums that the station should promote. This job description has a very similar skillset to that of an A&R, so I excelled and took advantage of every opportunity that I was presented.

I am extremely grateful to Jeff Brown, Jason Crane (my internship supervisor), and 98.7 The FREQ for putting me in a position to achieve my goals. Now, I extend my gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Bellisario for helping me to further my education and obtain my dream job. I never would have established these relationships if it were not for generous individuals like the Bellisarios that ensured that I remained focused and gave the necessary support for me to stay in school.

Thank you and sincerely,
Judah Jamison
The Pennsylvania State University
College of Communications