

NRAA Scholarship Recipient Shares Her Impactful Advocacy Experience

Established in 2018, the [NRAA Anthony J. Messana Scholarship](#) honors the decades of involvement and personal commitment to advocacy efforts with the NRAA and the overall kidney care community by Anthony Messana.

Messana's experience, on all levels within the dialysis industry have allowed him to meet with Members of Congress, CMS, the administration and other relevant agencies to discuss how legislation and regulations would impact the kidney community and patients. The NRAA Board of Directors developed this scholarship to honor Messana's work with the organization and provide an opportunity for other NRAA members to become more involved in advocacy.

The scholarship recipient for 2019 was **Emiliah Kambarami-Sithole**, MHA, BSN, RN, CDE, a healthcare professional working with diabetic and ESRD patients for 19 years. As the Dialysis Program Director at Seattle Children's Hospital, Emiliah was honored to receive this award and continue her work as an advocate for this special population.

"This opportunity really allowed me to participate and represent the pediatric population. After transitioning to pediatrics a couple of years ago, I realized the issues faced by this population are completely different than those experienced by adult ERSD patients."



Emiliah has traveled to Washington D.C. in the past and found that meeting face-to-face with representatives affords a unique opportunity to share what is happening at a local level. "Many are not aware unless they have family members affected or have gone through chronic disease themselves. I am passionate about kidney care and discussing the daily challenges we face as providers."

The NRAA Anthony Messana Scholarship is intended to provide financial assistance to an NRAA member in attending the advocacy event. It is also an opportunity to network and unite with fellow members. "By attending the NRAA Day on the Hill, I was able to find out what other passionate providers like myself are experiencing across the country. Creating one strong voice has an impact and I want to continue to be a part of that voice", Emiliah shares.

If you are interested in participating in our next NRAA Day on the Hill advocacy program, check our [website](#) for upcoming deadlines for this unique scholarship opportunity. Every voice counts.