HONORS STUDENT
EXCELS WITH SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO UW BOTHELL, Liya Tsegaye had to work two or three jobs to make ends meet as a community college student. It was stressful and exhausting to juggle such a busy school and work schedule.

Liya spoke up about her financial struggles at an information fair for new students on campus. That’s how she learned about a unique scholarship opportunity for transfer students. She applied and quickly got word that the $12,000 Biella Foundation scholarship was hers.

“It was such a relief!” recalls the biology major, a native of Ethiopia who’s studying to become a pharmacist.

Now, instead of having to wait tables, whip up lattes or work a front desk in her “spare” time, the honors student regularly volunteers as a pharmacy assistant at Northwest Hospital — a hands-on opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the profession.

Liya’s interest in pharmacy traces back to a scary experience she had growing up in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. At age 9, she fell and injured her chin. Her mom rushed her to a hospital, where a nurse stitched up Liya’s badly bleeding wound, and a hospital pharmacist sent her home with the wrong medication. Her chin swelled up, turned green and Liya almost lost consciousness.

“That really shook me and made me appreciate what an important role pharmacists play in the healthcare field,” Liya says. “They’re the most easily accessible healthcare professionals.”

Liya moved to the United States when she was 15, learning English quickly and excelling in high school. After three years of community college, she transferred to UW Bothell last fall. She’s a hard-working and high-achieving student with a 3.7 GPA and dreams of teaming up with a professor on a biochemistry research project next year before graduating and moving on to pharmacy school.

TODAY, SIX OUT OF 10 UW BOTHELL STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL AID, but only a fraction get the support they deserve because of a lack of funding for scholarships. You can help more students like Liya get a top-notch education by giving to UW Bothell. Learn how at www.uwb.edu/give.