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One teen's dream really comes true



Brittrie Pemberton, 15, talks about her own experience with the Pictures of Hope program and how one of her photographs led to a four-year scholarship at San Diego State University. (Courtesy of

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By Rick Nathanson / Journal Staff Writer | 12 hours ago

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Among the mentors at Joy Junction for the Pictures of Hope day was 15-year-old Brittnie Pemberton, who knows something about visualizing her dreams.

Pemberton, a native of Albuquerque, was living with her parents and brother in a Salvation Army shelter in San Diego six years ago when she met photojournalist Linda Solomon during a Pictures of Hope presentation.

Among the photos Pemberton took, and the one Solomon selected to turn into a holiday card, was her snapshot of the entry sign to San Diego State University.

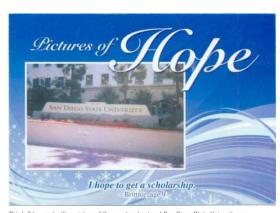
"My hope and dream is to get a scholarship and go to college," she says. "I'd like to become a psychologist."

Pemberton and her mother were subsequently invited to go on a tour of the university, but when they got there, they were led into an office to meet the university president.

"He said, 'Congratulations, we hope to see you soon at San Diego State University.' Then he handed me a certificate granting me a four-year scholarship," Pemberton says.

Apparently, the president had learned of the Pictures of Hope program and had seen Pemberton's card and decided to make her dream a reality.

"I was mind-blown, just really excited. My dream had just come true," she says. "I will start in 2015 and be the first person in my extended family to go to college, so I guess it's true that a picture really is worth a thousand words - and it can change your life."



This holiday card with a picture of the courtyard entry at San Diego State University was photographed by Brittnie Pemberton to represent her dream of getting a scholarship and going to college. That dream came true for her when she received a certificate granting her a four-year scholarshin

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