

Growing up in a single parent household with 7 siblings, I had become accustomed to having shared and limited resources. Chicago is known for having limited educational resources, but I managed to excel with the support of my family and instructors. Howard University saw my ability to capitalize on great opportunities with confidence, as well as my determination to make a positive impact on the world I live in; as a result, I was blessed to attend on a scholarship that lasted for one year. While attending as a full time student and nearly full time employee, I made leaps toward my dream of developing my community through achievements at HU.

Since the start of my attendance, I have had many wonderful opportunities to positively influence the lives of those that also live(d) with limited resources. As a LEGO/SeaPerch camp counselor for the University of Maryland, I worked in a team of aspiring engineers to develop and deliver an interactive curriculum for middle school students in hopes that they would gain interest in STEM. Concepts on buoyancy, building structure, circuits, and propulsion, accompanied with building and maneuvering a SeaPerch to see how the concepts are put to practice, kept the students actively engaged and enthused for STEM. Following this I worked for HU as a MatLab research mentee. My job was to use machine learning algorithms in MatLab as a text-mining tool to predict and prevent terrorist attacks; I helped to improve script efficiency from 30% to 90% during my time. As a sustainability project manager at the HU Office of Sustainability, I managed projects that repurposed underutilized campus space to enhance the student experience on campus.

Throughout all my endeavors to create opportunities on campus and beyond, I have struggled greatly to maintain financial stability. Although I work year-round, I always fall short of the required tuition payment necessary to advance to the next semester. There are many students like me that work during semester recesses in effort to pay for school, and suffers time away from family to have all their energy poured into their institution's tuition. Because of this, I hope to one day provide experiences and resources to hardworking engineering students, whether it be financial, academic, or professional support because one good deed can do wonders for one's life. It has continuously been through miracles that I manage to extinguish my balance and take one more step toward earning my degree. The INSPIRE program will not only help me to continue and eventually complete my education, but it will give me the recovered energy to help others in need. The invested energy of the INSPIRE program will give me the opportunity to pay it forward and hopefully change someone else's life for the better. The reward of this program will be a light to my tunnel, which I hope to reflect into the lives of those in need of light on their journey.

May 10, 2018

Dear Dr. William W.L. "Bill" Taylor Memorial Scholarship Competition:

I am writing this letter in strong support of the application of Mr. Jamal Gilmore. I had the pleasure of teaching Jamal in Howard University's CSCI-350 Structure of Programming Language course in the Spring of 2018. Jamal demonstrated great character and the ability to grasp complex computer science concepts related to the design of High-Level programming languages. Jamal was a quick learner and was able to immediately apply the concepts learned in several lab assignments in the course. Jamal demonstrated mastery of the subject by earning an "A" in the course.

Jamal has a very diverse background of education and experience that would make him a perfect candidate for the scholarship. Jamal has served as an undergraduate research assistant in the department of Physics during his time at Howard University and he is on track to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering in 2019.

Thus, this scholarship will have a tremendous impact on Jamal's future as a future physical science scholar. Furthermore, the experience gained from participating in INSPIRE's Very Low Frequency (VLF) research project will provide the practical hands on experience needed to advance Jamal's academic studies as well as future employment in a STEM discipline.

I highly recommend Mr. Jamal Gilmore as a candidate for the Dr. William W.L. "Bill" Taylor Memorial Scholarship.

If you have any further questions with regard to her background or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Torrance Fennell, Ph.D.

Adjunct Professor, Howard University Computer Science Department

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY

May 11, 2018

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in strong support of the application of Mr. Jamal Gilmore to your program. Mr. Gilmore and I both conducted research in the Physics Department of Howard University. I would offer guidance in his efforts to improve machine learning scripts in Matlab. It did not take long for the student to become more of a collaborator as Jamal introduced me to various methods of manipulating the Matlab scripts. Jamal would even explain the behind-the-scenes of how Matlab is interpreting and carrying out the script, which really proved that he had a vivid understanding of what he was doing, and I feel that his desire to master the functions of the tools at use can translate to any system and workplace environment.

Jamal deserves to earn the Dr. William W.L. "Bill" Taylor Memorial Scholarship in my opinion, because of his drive to accomplish any goals that he sets for himself. He is bright and has a very strong work ethic. He is also very enthusiastic about learning new material and is quite capable of using the techniques learned in innovative ways. I know that when he graduates from Howard University, he will do wonders not only for the community in his hometown of Chicago, but for marginalized and underrepresented communities nationwide.

I am sure that Jamal is a talented student and has the potential to do well in your program. I strongly support his application to your Program. Should you have any further questions about him, please do not hesitate to contact me at my email address: dcasimir@howard.edu.

Sincerely,

Daniel Casimir, Ph.D.

