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McKinley Tech Scholarship

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My Academic and Career Goals

As a high school senior, I aspire to major in electrical engineering, I plan to make STEM-based learning more accessible in marginalized communities while providing representation for young black women. Students in underprivileged areas are not given the same resources as their White counterparts who are typically middle class or in higher socioeconomic hierarchies. As a student at a STEM-based high school, I have had the privilege of not only receiving critical knowledge but also technical information through my engineering STEM track. My school is one of the few schools within Washington, DC that offers NAF academies. With a large Black population, it is critical for students who look like me to be provided an extended education.

In the dynamic realm of engineering, the significance of diversity cannot be overstated. As we embark on an era defined by technological breakthroughs and global challenges, the need for diverse perspectives and experiences in engineering is more crucial than ever. Diversity in engineering encompasses a spectrum of attributes, including but not limited to race, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and cultural background. As a woman of an underrepresented race within engineering, I have a perspective that puts me at the forefront of diversity. Embracing this diversity enhances creativity by bringing together individuals with unique problem-solving approaches, fostering a robust environment where novel ideas flourish. Using my own experiences and others around me, I will be able to collaborate to develop a unique learning experience and inspire a new evolution of engineering, further allowing for the global collaboration of engineering.

Over 67% of engineers are White, 15% percent are Asian, and a smaller percentage of engineers are made up of Hispanics, African Americans, and Native Americans. If less than 10% of engineers are Black, imagine the amount of these engineers who are women. Not that many. Even with dire statistics, in the Black community, many children are only exposed to sports such as football, basketball, or baseball as career goals. The careers that I have listed are generally targeted towards the Black male, providing less representation for young Black girls. Society should not limit the fields children seek simply because they are underrepresented in very critical jobs such as engineering. As a young Black woman, I look forward to seeing children in my community venture away from the NFL, NBA, and MBL. These occupations are limited in scope in terms of the availability of jobs while noting that there are finite opportunities. Students need to acknowledge and seek education to enrich their immediate community; thus, requiring students to have a backup plan that is indeed stable and able to conquer the fields requiring vast knowledge and skills. If more schools had the resources that exposed students to STEM-related careers it would allow minorities to have better access and job opportunities within fields like computer science, information technology, and medicine.  It is my desire and hope to be an example for disadvantaged students regarding how they can attain and envision a better and brighter future with the assistance of an education.