

OUR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

daddy's little girl
scholarship foundation



Daddy's Little Girl Essay



I have always placed a large amount of my own satisfaction on my ability to do well and make others happy. This is partially because my entire life I've had people who give their all to make sure that I have what I need to succeed. From late-night homework help with my mom to encouraging talks from my now 96-year-old great-grandmother, I have always known that no matter what someone will be there. For so many reasons people pour into me and although I may not know why, I do know how important it is for them to see me do well—or as my great-grandmother puts it, to “keep making those As”. This love and support are important to me. Although it took me quite some time to realize this, my family makes me who I am and pushes me to keep going.

School first became very hard once I reached fifth grade. We were expected to do so much more than in the previous years and we all had no idea where to start. We had to learn how to properly take notes, properly study, properly ask questions, and properly take tests. That year was the first of many where I would stay up all night completing homework. Not only was I tired but I also sometimes felt hopeless and as if I lacked the intelligence to do well in this class. While I sat at the dining room table my mom would make sure that I had snacks and water to keep me company. Moreover, she made sure I knew she was there if I needed help. We would sit together until midnight, sometimes later, until I was able to finish my homework. This was also the year that I first spoke at my church about Jesus' seven last words. The process of writing this was similar to that of doing my homework each night. I would have to think and research, then figure out how I wanted to convey my thoughts into words. From creating and giving my reflection on Jesus' last moments on earth in the flesh, I realized that no matter what I must persist and stay with my purpose.

My purpose in life is to succeed and make the lives of others' better using my own experiences, knowledge, and skill. *This* is why I spent every night sitting at the table doing work—and why I still do. I know that it is my God-given purpose to craft my gifts into something purposeful for others. I spent much of my time in high school living up to this mission by being a part of Peer Mediators, Cheerleading, Service Projects, Girls Empowerment Meetings, and so much more! These extracurriculars are only a glimpse into all of the things I've given my time to in order to help others. This not only brings light to the lives of others, but it fulfills my life as well.

I have been taught by my loved ones that it is most important to impact others in a positive manner. It is for this reason that I have chosen to study Computer Science and Engineering for the next four years at The Ohio State University. I have learned that I am good at

math, and I enjoy the logic of it. Consequently, I chose a major that awakens this love within me. I plan to use my degree to help bring technological advances to the lives of those in need in an attempt to improve their lifestyle. As a Computer Engineer, I would be able to solve the issues we face today by using technology. Problems such as pollution and the overwhelming amount of contaminated water in homes, as well as in places of work, have the possibility to be solved by technology if the right brain is put to the test. Because we are in an age driven by technology, Computer Science and Computer Engineering is a path that can open so many doors in the lives of others. My family has been a large help in allowing me to reach this point. They helped me discover my interests and motivated me to do the work needed to make it to this point, putting me in position to do well.

In order to continue on this path, I must acquire the necessary tools to achieve my dreams. Receiving this scholarship would allow these dreams to come true, giving me an opportunity to explore the depths of everything that college has to offer. I would be able to increase my experience and knowledge without worrying about how I will continue my college semester. Additionally, I will be able to continue to make my family proud. Thank you for this opportunity to share my story and hopefully inspire others to do the same.

Shauna (Evynn) Burkes