

My education has helped make me who I am. It's helped me discover my passions and interests and has shaped many of my personality traits, self-confidence, personal relationships, and community involvement.

Throughout my education, I challenged myself by taking difficult courses. In high school, I took numerous Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and Honors courses, and I graduated with a 99.7 average. These classes also helped me decide to pursue engineering. I've always excelled in math and science, and I love solving problems. I enjoyed my science labs because they allowed me to do hands-on work and apply concepts. My school offered engineering courses, so I took them, and when Calhoun formed a robotics club my Senior year, I joined and became the club's Secretary. At our first-ever competition, we reached the semi-finals and received a Judges Award.

My interest in science has continued at Michigan, where my classes have emphasized teamwork and collaboration, with many assignments being group projects. The ability to work collaboratively is important in any career, but especially in engineering. Developing these skills has been particularly challenging during COVID. In my introductory engineering class, my group was able to coordinate adjustments to our project by meeting both in-person and virtually to complete our tasks. I've found I work well with people regardless of how different they are from me.

My education also taught me the importance of being involved and helping others. I've always been active in lots of clubs, where I've developed social skills and discovered what I like to do. I love singing, and through my various performance groups I've learned how much satisfaction I get from performing for others and how exciting it is to be on stage in front of large audiences. (I've even performed at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.) In my high school drama program, I learned about patience, perseverance and hard work. I spent hours working behind the scenes on costumes and set pieces to make sure each show would be great. Regardless of whether I was in the cast, and though I was sometimes disappointed about not being on stage, I put in the same amount of time and effort to make every show a great production. I worked hard in every role I was given, big or small. I rose to be Crew Chief of our Costumes Crew, and I volunteered with a club (Express Yourself) that mentored special needs students using drama therapy. My clubs gave me leadership opportunities. I served as VP of Community Club, which supported our local food pantry, and I volunteered preparing meals for soup kitchens. At Michigan I served on the Planning Committee for Relay-for-Life, organizing a fundraiser that raised over \$1,000 for cancer research, while also participating socially in the Disney Club and on the Quidditch and Cheer teams. My robotics team is competing in Dallas this month.

So much of who I am comes from my educational experiences. They're why I know I can achieve all my goals.