

Since the seventh grade, I have been recognized for earning an A average in every grading period. In eighth grade, I received the Mac Williams Award; I was also inducted into the National Junior Honor Society that year. In the Science Olympiad Competitions held at Fayetteville State University, I placed first in the Earth Science division twice and once in Experimental Design. I have also competed in the Algebra I and Geometry Competitions at Pembroke State University. I entered the 1996 State Science Fair held at North Carolina A&T University by submitting a plant hormone project; I placed first in Senior Biological Sciences, earning myself a plaque and recognition for my school.

I have joined the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Youth Council, a youth-based city community service program, and have now earned 76 hours. I volunteer weekly in another community service project, Habitat for Humanity, helping to construct new homes for low-income families. In visual arts, I am involved in an after-school art club that produces graphic designs for school use. I have been nominated to attend the Governor's School during this year's summer break. Also, I have participated in the International Club, a cross-cultural ethnic club, and have thoughts about joining my school's Science Ecology Club.

I have highly sophisticated computer skills. I am conversant with the Internet, Microsoft Word, and Windows. I took part in Starquest, a five-day team excursion to Tampa and Orlando, Florida, to study new sciences and technologies. While there, I studied the functions of the Space Shuttle at Kennedy and participated in Mission Control simulations. I used low-level explosives in experimental rocket design and focused an eighty-inch reflector telescope on Mars. I sampled virtual reality programs, the functions of the Tesla coil, and shared ideas on improving water-waste management facilities. Recently, I have used various weather instruments such as anemometers to measure weather data off the coast.

I enjoy recreational sports and many outdoor pursuits such as swimming and hiking. I keep myself in optimum fitness by exercising, walking, and weightlifting. To relax, I often compose and sing my own songs; I have performed twice in local and school talent shows. I am currently at work on my first novel. I have many interests in science, mostly biology, atmospheric science, astronomy, and quantum physics. I have found ways to apply these interests in my community service projects---Habitat for Humanity, FCCYC, and other school clubs.

I believe that I should be accepted into the school of science and math because of my exemplary scholastic achievements in science and math during my high school years. I currently rank number one in my class in these subjects, but I feel that I need greater academic challenge that my school is unable to afford me. I intend to pursue a career in physics or biology. I believe I would therefore greatly benefit from attending the school of science and math as I could consult with peers with like interests. My motivation to excel in the fields of science and math is fueled by the knowledge that science is an influencing factor in all aspects of life.

As a person who is committed to attaining a standard in excellence through hard work and perseverance, I consider myself to have high work ethics. This is evident by the academic grades that I achieve. Since the seventh grade, I have been recognized for earning an A average in every grading period. Apart from receiving many awards, I have been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. By participating two years in Science Olympiad, I have become highly

knowledgeable in earth science. In Experimental Design, I was the designated team leader who helped the team to first place by designing ways to solve problems. I have also competed in the Algebra I and Geometry Competitions at Pembroke State University. As a freshman, I represented Westover in the 1996 State Science Fair Senior Biology Division. I attained first place, thereby winning state recognition for my school. While I have a diverse interest in all subjects that I study at school, I have an interest in history because it offers a foundation for the future. I have a high aptitude in written and oral communication, and as a sophomore, I currently take a junior-level AP English course. I am a member of Westover's Art Club and have been nominated in visual arts to attend Governor's School.

The social aspect of my life is full and varied. I am an active member of Habitat for Humanity, an organization that constructs homes for low-income families. Currently, I am helping to build a home for a family of seven. Working with Habitat has required me to learn and use various laboring skills such as painting, carpentry, and bricklaying. In working toward the completion of the houses, I have learned to work both as a team member and autonomously. I find belonging to this program particularly gratifying as I believe that my service will be instrumental in making a significant difference to families' lives and to those of the future generations. I am also a volunteer with the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Youth Council, a youth-based city community service program. From being an active member in various community services involving ecology and humanity, I have learned how to contribute to and receive ideas from a cross section of the community.

I attempt to take responsibility for my personal development by availing myself of as many extracurricular opportunities that will advance me on a social and academic level. Apart from my community commitments, I try to find time to engage in various interests and physical activities such as exercising, weightlifting, and walking. I also engage in recreational sports and outdoor pursuits such as swimming and hiking. For relaxation, I enjoy reading and listening to music. I enjoy singing and have participated in two school-held talent shows, performing my own compositions. I fancy myself as an amateur writer, and have commenced working on my first novel.

I have a firm conviction that if accepted, I will be able to contribute to the School of Science and Math in a positive way. I am motivated to attain a standard of excellence. I currently rank number one in my class; I have set a precedent in the fields of science and math at my school, and enjoy exchanging knowledge and experience with others. I enjoy working as a team member and am eager to interact on an intellectual level with others with whom I can share common interests. Surrounded by students who share my interest in science and math, I can only be encouraged and challenged to further achieve both academically and socially. Living on campus would enable me to feel part of a larger community and I envisage that daily contact with fellow students will enhance my personal development.

I have always found science and math intriguing subjects and have a strong commitment to studying in these fields. I have a sincere desire to attend the School of Science and Mathematics to further my education and avail myself with opportunities that cannot be given locally. By attending the School of Science and Math, I will be taking a significant step toward attaining my future goal of majoring in physics or biology and preparing myself for college. With the help of NCSSM, I hope to be able to eventually make a significant contribution to the future.