To Whom It May Concern,

Firstly, I wanted to see to whoever is reading this, I hope you're well and safe. The world is going through unprecedented times, and I think humanity is more important than ever in these moments. Sending many, many (virtual) positive vibes and encouragement. This too shall pass.

My name is Chioma Ubogagu. I am an African-American. I am a woman. I know that I am way more than that, but these are the attributes that people can see first when meeting me. Sometimes that creates conversation of relativity that I thoroughly enjoy, but sometimes it creates scenarios where it immediately places limits on my ambitions. Sometimes I perhaps subconsciously also place these limits on myself. By this I mean I had extreme curiosity about coding when I attended college, but I never fully explored it. This is very, very unlikely me. I think I was scared about being a minority, a black woman, in yet another field of interest. However I am big believer that timing is everything. This is why when I read and learned about Coding Dojo, it was more than a potentially, new career path to me. It was an opportunity to explore a passion I did not allow myself to do in university. I do not want to be impeded this time, especially not by myself. I hope after these 14 weeks, with hard work and determination, I can contribute to minimizing the gender gap between male and female developers.

I think one way to narrow the gender gap between male and female developers is exactly what Coding Dojo is doing, trade schools. I think sometimes people cannot attend a four year university again to learn a new skill, but they can see the increased necessity for software developers. Hell, sometimes people cannot afford university to begin with, and this is the only opportunity that is attainable. I also think representation matters. During my very detailed research of coding bootcamps, I came across more women testimonials from Coding Dojo than other bootcamps. It wasn't many, it was less than the amount of male testimonials, but it was more than enough. I read blogs, I watched Youtube videos, and I was deeply encouraged by each one. It inspired me even to promote female representation in the developer community in this same medium. I know firsthand how hard it was to find personal experiences, and I found myself almost using it as a reason to discourage myself from pursing the course. Not today, Satan. Not today. After this course, and hopefully after I am awarded this scholarship, (pretty please), I truly plan to pay it forward in the same manner. My likeness to help others is stronger than my dislike of social media influencing. You just don't know who you'll reach, or who will find the information you're sharing useful. I can definitely get uncomfortable for 3-4 minutes in front of a camera if it has the possibility to help encourage one more future female developer.

Thank you so much for your time.

All the Best,

Chioma