While S.T.E.M. may only be an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics it has much more meaning to me than the four words which represent it. I have heard many people say that the future of the job industry is in the S.T.E.M. fields; however, I know that S.T.E.M. is not solely an opportunity to get a good job, but an opportunity to make a difference in the world, no matter how big or small.

S.T.E.M. has changed my mindset on how to look at the ever changing community around me. Instead of sitting back and watching new inventions and technology be produced almost every week or month, why not be the person who is the innovator? S.T.E.M. has given me the ability to become more involved in the community by showing me problem solving skills and how to think outside of the box. By becoming educated about S.T.E.M. in everyday life I will be able to create more efficient methods for doing simplistic or difficult tasks.

By immersing myself into S.T.E.M. activities and programs, such as APP-titude at the museum and the 4-H club in my community, I will have more options and insight as to what I want to do in my future. S.T.E.M. has already opened my horizons immensely and will hopefully continue to do so. Using S.T.E.M. in my future, I would like to make technology more accessible to not only the majority of people in the United States but also to people all around the world. S.T.E.M. has had a major impact on my life and I would like to show other generations how S.T.E.M can impact their everyday lives. S.T.E.M. is a way to test out new ideas and make mistakes while doing it. In the future I would like to use S.T.E.M to come up with ideas for preventing the degradation of environmental resources and new methods for transforming environmental sources of energy into power we can use.

## S.T.E.M. may be a four letter acronym, but to me there is only one word to describe it, opportunity. As stated in the, “STEM: Defying a Simple Definition article”, “… [S.T.E.M.] …is about moving forward, solving problems, learning, and pushing innovation to the next level.”