My name is Malik Mertus and one day I will be a software engineer. I have been very inclined towards technology ever since I was a young boy. The first photos I ever appeared in show me holding a Nintendo 64 controller in my hand with the biggest smile you will ever see. The first video game I ever remember playing was halo 2, which was a big deal in 2004. All my friends at the time played it together and we would do it at my house or online and those memories are treasured in my heart and will be forever. What brings me happiness is the connection between man and machine. The intuition and navigation of a controller once you have held it hundreds of times and the joy of beating your close friend in a game, that they’ve practiced for hundreds of hours alongside you is unique to say the least. I started playing computer games around 8 when I started going to the boys and girls club near my house. Playing cool math and club penguin where some of the most of fun things an 8-year-old can do, outside of talking to girls in your head. As I got older, my interest in technology grew more and more as I got better in mathematics, and started learning software such as Microsoft word, PowerPoint, and SketchUp. Today, I am learning how to code in JavaScript, and I plan on learning other programming languages as well, but my interest in technology started with playing Nintendo 64 playing the first NBA 2k. The joy and happiness I experienced is the reason why I want to become a software engineer. I want to create the same opportunities for growth and satisfaction that I had growing up, even though financially I did not have much. The possibilities for software development are endless, from Artificial intelligence and the development of programs that can suggest what you want to say before you even say it, to the new robotic dogs that can play volleyball, which need to be programmed, the future is bright in the technology field, and bright minds will need to be there to take advantage of the potential available. I want to become a software developer so I can assist and create things that help the lives of other people, in as many ways imaginable, and many ways that are not yet. Outside of my professional aspirations, I also want to volunteer and help my community. In high school I volunteered in key club where we assisted in local marathons where the proceeds go to charity, as well as other things. Once we held a car wash where we washed the cars for free, and accepted donations where the proceeds would go towards buying Christmas gifts for families in need.

My Name is Malik mertus and I have many dreams I want to accomplish, some of them belonging to me, others to others. If I could only pick one reason why I should be chosen for this scholarship, it would be because my dream is the same as many others. To change the world for the better.