Dear Dr. Hower,

It is a great honor to receive this scholarship from Glen and Juanita Hower Endowed Fund. College is not easily affordable and this scholarship lessens the stress on myself so I can focus on my classes. I did some research of my own and found that you’ve given back to the school nearly your whole life. I’m very grateful you have given so much of yourself to this school and to me.

I come from Vancouver Washington, a larger town just north of Portland. In 8th grade I found a love for computers while building my first one with the help of my middle school science teacher. The hardware was very interesting to me and I got to learn about how a Motherboard works with the CPU, RAM, etc., along with all the other main parts of a computer. Soon after, I joined a high school in Vancouver focused on STEM learning and found my love for programming. I joined my high school robotics team as well and ended up learning about how to code in Java and Python, work on the Chassis of a Western Drive robot, wire various components of a robot like the Power Distribution Panel and the Pneumatics on the one we were using. This was all for FRC, or First Robotics Competition, an organization that is in schools around the world with the main goal of spreading STEM and team skills so all ages of students. Each year there is a challenge and a game, to which each school involved is tasked to build a robot to complete the challenge and win the game. Through my four years in the organization, our team ended up going to the FRC World’s Competition twice. In addition to robotics, I joined the Boy Scouts of America at a young age and, in addition to learning many soft skills and hard skills, earned my Eagle Scout in 2017 after organizing and executing a service project for a local shooting range near Vancouver as well as leading different aspects of our Scout troop for 2 years.

Life at Washington State University Pullman has been really nice so far. Being a Computer Science major, I found the engineering program very welcoming and dedicated to helping students succeed. The professors I’ve met are really committed to their students, especially Andrew O’Fallon. One of my dreams is to work for a big tech company like Amazon, Intel, or even Nintendo one day. Washington State was certainly a good choice to get started at. Outside of college, I constantly try to build up my resume and gain experience in the industry. Over the summer, I worked at a computer repair shop for an internship. I’m already looking at and applying for positions at those companies.

Thank you again for this amazing scholarship. It’s really and truly made a difference as now I won’t have to take out a student loan in the coming years at WSU.

Sincerely,

John Sbur



