**Why should we pick you for this?**

I am in love with Computer Graphics--well as close as one can come to being in love with an activity. There have been moments in my life where Computer Graphics takes over my life. Days where I’m working on a project and I physically *cannot* stop. Where I stay up till 4am coding particle simulations and then wake up 3 hours later to finish it. My favorite aspect of Computer Graphics is and always has been using physics to create simulations. Now, while I was a Computer Science student, it was a little difficult. I had the technical knowledge to build almost any simulation I wanted, but I lacked the physics foundation. Of course, I didn’t let that stop me. I learned what I needed to learn so I could build what I wanted to build. But now I’m at a point where I want to learn more about Physics, especially Astrophysics, and here’s why: I want to create the most beautiful, mesmerizing, and intoxicating simulations. I want to create Virtual Reality experiences that make you forget you are standing on Earth. I want to create art exhibits that bridge the gap between technology, physics and art, transforming your mind on what you believed was possible to visualize. I want to spread wonder into this world and by far, my *favorite* way to do so is through Computer Graphics. So please, pick me. Let me come learn about Astrophysics from you so that I can build mesmerizing simulations. Let me come learn from you, so that one day, I can show the world all the beauty that exists beyond our tiny little Earth.

**But your grades…**

Yes, I know they are not the best. But please don’t let them rule me out from this fellowship. I’m willing to do whatever it takes to get this fellowship. So feel free to call me, set up an interview, whatever you need for me to prove that I can handle this fellowship and that I am a qualified candidate for this fellowship regardless of my GPA.

**JACKIE FAHERTY PLEASE READ THIS:**

After I choose to apply for your project, I Googled you. I came across your website and checked out a few YouTube videos of you talking about astrophysics. This just made me want to do this fellowship *even* more. Because you seem like an awesome woman in STEM that I would love the opportunity to learn from. I love how passionate you are about Astrophysics and I guarantee you that I want to learn about Astrophysics. It is my dream to open a technology art museum that features beautiful and mesmerizing physics simulations. But in order to do that, I need to learn more physics. So please, pick me so I can come learn from you. Let me join you in proving that women can be damn good physicists.

**I believe hobbies can say a lot about a person, here are mine:**

Reading, painting, drawing, writing, writing poetry, traveling, listening to good music, meditation, cooking, kayaking, hiking.

**My purpose in life summed up in two words:**

Curiosity, creativity.

**Because starlight is the reason we are alive**

I have a tattoo on my body that reads: Starlight my darling, always chase your starlight. And the meaning of ‘starlight’ to me is both literal and metaphorical. I am fascinated by foreign galaxies and the beauty of their starlight. But metaphorically, starlight signifies all my dreams and aspirations. It’s my wonder at this world. It’s my appreciation of the beauty that exists in this world. And it’s a promise to myself to never stop chasing it. To never settle for less. To always open my eyes to the wonder that exists in this world. And to never stop chasing magic.

Traditional bores me. Creativity interests me. In the sake of doing something different, something extra, my way of showing my commitment to this fellowship. I made a website on why you should pick me for this fellowship. On this website I’ve answered this question and all the other questions from your application (while adding a few of my own questions worth answering), but it’s done in a fun, pretty, and different way. Please check out this website.

ashleydattalo.github.io/pickme!

There have been moments in my life where my Computer Graphics projects take over my life. The desire to sleep, eat, go outside, or do anything other than code fades away. I become so immersed in my work that I physically can’t stop. I *live* for these moments. It’s like I’m in a groove. Coding, shit just works, ideas come lightening fast, and I make so much progress. Time slows and I’m in a whole other world; one where the laws of physics are subject to my imagination. Where I can create simulations of houses orbiting the sun, or particles defying gravity, or purple trees. A world where the only limitations are my imagination.

**Why do you like Computer Graphics so much?**

I like combining color, sound, math, physics and creativity to create something beautiful. To create a simulation of illuinesent particles floating along the dark black screen following the pattern of a helix spiral curve. Or creating ripple effects in water. To interpolate between colors to create eye popping gradients. To use physics to create translucent or reflective objects. Playing with gravity. Creating scenes where objects can defy the rules of gravity. To have the power to create anything I set my mind to.

Because to me, the combination of Computer Science, Math, Physics, and creativity is absolutely magically.

I love Computer Graphics.

Maybe I'll move to Ensenada and teach students there how to build websites for US clients. Or maybe I won't. Who knows?

**Portfolio of projects:**

It all started with 2048. [story about how this made me fall in love with CS]

[Video of 2048]

Disillusions with CS, UNTIL: Computer Graphics!!! Solar system simulation. First all nighter I ever pulled. Because I didn’t want to stop working on it, and it was due the next day. Tell *why* I loved it! Mesmerizing. Physics! Cool! Fun.

[video of solar system]

Continuing:

Particles!!! YES. YES. YES.

-more all nighters

Fluid sim:

-fucking cool

-seriously SO cool

\*images & video

DRAWING GALAXIES in VR!!!!!

My favorite thing EVER.

Ray Tracing:

Funnn