Blaine Killen

**Scholarship in Action**

If given the opportunity to go on the Spring Break in Silicon Valley trip, I would bring back an experience that would influence the rest of my life and share it with others that have the same passions as me. I have always had the dream of working in Silicon Valley, either by startup or through the workforce, since I was young. I have an extremely high passion for technology as illustrated by my heavy involvement in the technology start-up world, and would love to have the chance to physically see where my dreams could lead me.

I have been interested in this program since I heard of the experiences from the participant when I was in the Idea to Startup class my freshmen year. I would love to share the experience with fellow colleagues pursuing the same entrepreneurial track that I did, and other colleagues with a technological passion on the development side.

I have a high interest in every single stop on the trip all the way from Facebook, Google, and Twitter with their different web technology frameworks used in application deployment to the incubators and venture capital firms and the startups that exist inside them. I have development skills that I have been growing on the professional level including Ruby on Rails and jQuery that I would like to enhance by being in an environment that employs developers. I also have an interest in startups that will be enhanced if I can be inside the top incubators and venture firms in the world. I recently founded CheckIt, and co-founded MeetingSprout my freshmen year, and I would benefit from the experience of being inside a space that my entrepreneurial dreams could lead me.

Not only will I benefit from this experience, but my colleagues around me will as well because I will be able to share the experiences from the trip with them, and provide excitement for what is next to come in their professional lives. Also, my co-founders in my current project, CheckIt, will be ecstatic to hear about the experiences and new connections that I make in the venture firms.