

University of Kentucky College of Engineering Scholarship Essay

By: Brennen Green

I've always been the "weird" one, I played World of Warcraft instead of football, raided mythic dungeons instead of raging epic parties, chose to learn how just two boring numbers created the virtual world we take for granted rather than learn the best way to kick a ball or tackle a runner. While I've had to carry this "computer geek" stigma my entire life, I've always held it with high regard. I stick my chest out a bit when I can help family members solve technical problems that have been bothering them for months. My pride is in my knowledge of computers and the way they affect most everything humans touch. To some it's just meaningless numbers. But to me it's a virtual world of orcs and humans fighting to the death, or the system which keeps an aircraft balanced, and even the brain of that intelligent floor cleaner in your kitchen. These two numbers have become the admiration of my life, and holding this special place in my heart continuously pushes me to pursue computer science professionally, but also with love and admiration for the amazing field it has developed to be from Ada Lovelace, to Steve Jobs, and everyone in between.

I've always been amazed by the worlds created in movies like Toy Story, Frozen, Pirates of the Caribbean, etc. The inspiration these movies give millions of people is admirable and why I chose computer science. Ever since I've picked up programming it's been my goal to take my career in a direction to one day work as a software engineer on a team that creates these amazing experiences. For my education this means pursuing graduate school, this is because a large amount of this work requires an understanding of modern computer graphics research. But for me that's all worth it for the possibility to one day know that the work I do every day contributes to the entertainment of millions around the globe in the same way that sparked my inspiration for the field I love dearly.

When COVID struck the world in 2020, little was known about the future of my education. Receiving this scholarship helped assure my family that we can get through this together. Since then, I have been very lucky to work in several paid cooperative education positions. However, this scholarship is needed now as much as ever. By being a recipient of this scholarship that will allow me to continue to focus on my education, not my funding. This puts me in the best environment to be successful, to make the college of engineering proud, my family proud, but most importantly myself proud. And this will continue to afford me the opportunity to pursue my dreams in the field of computer science. That is why I am once again applying for this scholarship, in hopes I can use this funding to continue pursuing my dreams.