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**PRE-APPLICATION: Google PhD Fellowship Program 2025**

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**DESCRIBE AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (350 word-limit)**

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| Leadership found me before I acquired the words to define it. As the eldest daughter in a home that buzzed with chaos and responsibility, I took on the role of mentor, teacher, mediator, confidante, and caretaker. I learned quickly that true leadership relied not on authority, but on consistency, confidence, and reliability. These early experiences laid the foundation for how I would lead in every chapter of my life.  The role of “big sister” followed me into my professional life, profoundly influencing my passion for teaching and mentorship. What began as early-morning math lessons with my brother at the kitchen table evolved into tutoring underserved youth and, now, educating young scientists and medical students. While the content has changed, the heart of mentorship remains the same, and I draw daily on the instincts and patience I first cultivated with my siblings.  I also came to understand early on that leadership is not a solo act. At home, I wasn’t leading alone; I was part of a family where cooperation and compromise were essential. That same interdependence drew me to team sports—soccer, basketball, softball—spaces that cultivate support, collaboration, and togetherness. Competing at national and collegiate levels taught me the quiet strength of reliability—showing up for teammates in both triumph and adversity. Whether comforting a younger sister through college homesickness or coaching an injured teammate from the sidelines, I learned that leadership often lives in small moments of solidarity. Recently, I founded a soccer-and-science afterschool program in the Bronx to offer children in my community access to those same lessons—discipline, confidence, and the value of teamwork. It’s a full-circle return to where my leadership journey began: not in a title or position, but in being present.  Truthfully, my earliest lessons in leadership were learned at home, which laid the groundwork for the collaborative, dependable leadership style I bring to my professional life today. As a physician-scientist in training, I carry these lessons with me—leading with care, competence, and the belief that small acts of support can transform someone’s life. |