**Dedication to Learning Scholarship Essay**

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**How will your dedication to learning help you achieve your goals now and into the future?**

My dedication to learning is the force that drives me to re-enter the Ph.D. program in Data Science. Education is my passion and the key to achieving my goals to earn my doctorate degree and become a Data Scientist. My dedication to learning navigates this journey as a lifelong learner.

Let me start by providing my background and accomplishments achieved because of my dedication to learning. By overcoming the adversities as a first generation college student I was able to attain a Bachelors of Science degree in Secondary Education and a Masters in Applied Mathematics. My dedication involved study strategies, time management and scheduling techniques. This helped foster success during my academic struggles. I learned that it is best to schedule study time as a priority by informing family and friends of the commitment it takes to be a full-time college student.

After college I excelled at a career teaching mathematics. While gaining confidence in my teaching abilities, I began to realize that I had a unique passion for problem solving. Although teaching was a rewarding career, I now want to learn and apply new skills in practice, My full potential in Applied Mathematics has yet to be utilized. I believe l have more to contribute, another calling, and possibly another career using my degree in mathematics. It is this belief that keeps me searching and setting new goals that will enhance my future employability as a Data Scientist. I researched internships, coding boot camps, masters programs and PhD completion options. It is my dedication to learning that keeps me exploring new educational challenges.

Faced with financial hardship and limited funding, I remain dedicated to learning all I can about data science. Through self-taught online courses and communities I continue to learn new skills. With a financial hardship waiver I was able to complete the IBM Professional Data Scientist Specialization. Although I am more knowledgeable in the coding and software within the profession, it remains difficult to find employment as a Data Scientist.

Transitioning from education to industry requires experience that is difficult to obtain without additional formal education leading to a degree in Data science. This leads me to begin researching online data science doctoral programs. Many schools offer undergraduate and master programs but few have a doctoral program in Data Science. The Ph.D. program in Data Science at NCU provides an in-depth knowledge of the field of data science including the recent research topics relevant to business and industry. Exploration and examination of current literature, research papers and scholarly journals provide exposure to examples that will aid in forming the necessary structure and direction for my dissertation in the future. A dedication to learning new skills and technology while obtaining a doctorate is essential to achieve my goal of becoming a successful Data Scientists. A dedication to learning is essential as my pursuit of lifelong learning continues.