The AT&T fellowship appeals to me due to its unique opportunities to make lasting connections with researchers in an industry lab, the mentors who can act as collaborators and advisers to fellows, and the opportunity to research interesting problems during the summer internship. The summer internship componenet of the fellowship particularly intrigues me: unlike other fellowships, AT&T gives fellows a chance to work with their researchers in a meaningful way for a summer, where I would experience working in an industry research lab, work on new problems with people outside CMU, and become closely acquainted with my mentor.

I believe I am a good match for this fellowship because I am committed to working with young women in math and computer science, I work in a field where there are few women available as mentors, and I would like to experience the life of an industry researcher, an opportunity seldom afforded to graduate students.

As an undergraduate, I worked in Chicago Public Schools' elementary and middle school math classrooms on a weekly basis, providing tutoring and enrichment for students, and developing a hands-on curriculum for teaching basic concepts from computer science, such as random walks, graph coloring, and counting. In my third and fourth years, I worked closely with a group of girls in 4th and 5th grades, working outside the classroom so they could interact with me and each other free from the judgements made by their male classmates. Since coming to graduate school, I have acted as a mentor to undergraduate women in computer science through the Big Sisters program. This program provides mentors to undergraduate women, with the hope that the advice and examples set by graduate women in computer science will encourage more undergraduate women to do research, take internships, and apply to and attend graduate school.

I would like to be a researcher in computer science once I graduate from CMU. I am passionate about research, teaching and mentoring, so I believe working as a professor would afford me the chance to do all of these things. I suspect industry also has opportunities for mentoring and teaching, with more flexibility and time for research than a full-time professor would have. The summer internship (and the mentoring program) would give me an up-close look at industry research, giving me the chance to decide if working in industry would be a good fit for me after graduation, and prepare me for the application process and a successful career as a researcher.