I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the PTC/FIRST Robotics Scholarship possible.  I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this scholarship and I am deeply appreciative of your financial support.

I am currently a freshman double majoring in both Electrical engineering and Computer engineering. I first became interested in engineering as a little kid when my dad would bring home old electronics for me to take apart and experiment with. My interest in engineering was later magnified when I first became involved with FIRST robotics in sixth grade by participating in the FTC game Quad Quandary. From then on I was hooked and participated in two more seasons of FTC before joining my local FRC team 2169 KING TeC (sponsored by PTC) in high school. I participated in FRC for four years, where my team achieved several regional wins and chairman’s awards, and I made it to be captain of my team during my senior year.

Also during my senior year of high school I participated in PSEO (a program that allows high school students to take classes at colleges) at the University of Minnesota. Being a PSEO student at the U was where I really realized I wanted to stay here and become a student of the College of Science and Engineering. As a student here now I plan to get more involved in engineering and especially the FIRST community through volunteering with GOFIRST. After I graduate college in May 2018, I hope to work in the robotics or electronics industry, and in my free time either volunteer with FIRST or mentor a FIRST team.

Thank you again for this generous gift and for your support of FIRST robotics. This scholarship will help me immensely to make my way through college financially and to help me to focus on my education rather than worrying about paying for college. I hope to someday return the generosity you have extended to me by helping the FIRST community and students of the U.

Sincerely,

Cole Nielsen

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