

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to express interest in the Women Techmakers Scholarship. The description of the scholarship states that its purpose is to help students excel in technology and become leaders in the field. I believe that I am an exceptional candidate who can help achieve this mission.

I was working as an administrative assistant when I stumbled into my first professional software development experience. My boss at the time was searching for a solution to move employee time tracking from handwritten timesheets to a digital solution. Since I was studying web development at the time, I was employed to help research solutions, but none of the available options catered to our company's needs. Finally I asked if we could just write our own software, and I was given the go-ahead.

It was a struggle that ultimately took me a year-and-a-half of development time, lots of late nights at the office, endless beta testing, bug fixes, headaches, and corporate presentations, but I wrote a functional and elegant web app and built the foundation for my career with my own two hands.

I finally am able to return to school and help fill in the gaps of my knowledge, but my battle is only beginning. Already in my first semester back I encountered a classmate who suggested that the only reason I was able to find employment as a programmer with no degree was because I checked the diversity requirement box. Fighting against preconceived notions and unfair bias while completing an ambitious course load is a unique struggle, but I believe the end result will be worth it.

Warmest regards,
Natalie Mueller