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I peer into the microscope, eager to discover if my hypothesis remains true. I focus the lens until the image becomes defined: intricate onion cells. I experience a moment of revelation. After days of learning about cells, it had emerged right in front of my eyes: the nucleus, cell wall, and plasma membrane. That moment between a scientist's hypothesis and nature's answer is unforgettable. Questioning, trial and error, and analysis reflect an experimental process that is rewarding to me at every step of the way. That experience, however, was foreign until I became involved in hands-on labs at Helix Charter High School. As a self-motivated individual, my goal is to further my involvement in labs by attending college in order to positively contribute to society with scientific research and discovery.

Throughout middle school, science had been presented as a linear subject, extremely deprived of creativity and imagination. My interest for topics such as cellular respiration and bonding were diluted by textbook readings. Labs had predetermined outcomes with very little room to manipulate explanatory variables or design experiments myself. I remember learning about pH with the obscurity of the black-and-white pH scale diagrams in my "science" textbook. I explained to my teacher that I never used actual pH paper even after taking a whole exam on acids and bases. Science, a study of hands-on experimentation and discovery, has been unfortunately confined to worksheets.

As a result of the labs I have done and the publishing of my AP Chemistry Review book as my Senior Project, I am eager towards pursuing research. Every day, I jump out of bed with the eagerness of what the day has to offer and what I will discover. A college education is extremely important because it gives me a base to build a life around, teaches me about the world we live in, and provides me the opportunity to have the best college

education to make an impact in our society. Thus, I can lead future's path filled with inspiration and knowledge that light the way.

Likewise, I have also been on a journey, navigating through the classrooms and community to reach one goal. This goal is not something that one can easily achieve in a day; instead, this goal takes years of determination and perseverance. The ultimate goal that I work towards every day is to develop personal and academic skills in order to make a positive change in our society. From a single homework assignment to a multi-day community service project, everything that I did throughout my high school career has allowed me to become an innovator, an informed individual ready to serve people and find solutions to societal problems.

With my involvement in Key Club and Interact Club, I was able to help Kiwanis and Rotary bring about local, national, and global change. While Project Eliminate helps to eliminate fatal diseases among children, the Water Pasteurization Indicator project aims to help poor communities test the quality of water before drinking. It is vital for all scholars and citizens to donate time in order for our society to thrive socially, economically, and politically. From clean energy to a comprehensive education system and from ending world hunger to eliminating mass violence, societal issues here and abroad are waiting for the next generation and me to solve.

As a student, one of the things that I enjoy and value most is the chance to meet and serve people through community service. Whether that be cleaning up the community or raising food and funds for those in need, it is a fascinating way to help me see the world. By interacting and bonding with people, this heart to heart experience has taught me something that can never be taught through a textbook or in a classroom. As opposed to

just learning something, I envision community service as an opportunity that takes me out of the classroom and brings me into an engaged setting where I can actually do something. Being able to analyze and respond to these issues, I am capable of becoming a lifelong learner with the ability to effectively communicate my ideas to discover new solutions.

However, the biggest roadblock keeping me from achieving my goals is financial need and high costs. As a student from a low-income family, tuition and other college costs are extremely overwhelming. Because of this, my pursuit of a successful future is limited since I have more difficulty in accessing to the materials I need and less time to contribute.