

Joshua Vergara

2016 CSDFEA Larry Itliong Scholarship

Personal Statement

My hometown, Cavite, Philippines, is where most of my great memories lie. I lived there for almost thirteen years, and, Tagalog, is the first language that I learned to fluently speak. I originally came from a family that is consisted of my mother, father, and a little brother. My father decided to work in the United States when I was young because he wanted to earn more money to sustain our family. My mother and my grandmother were the ones who raised me to be an obedient person and they always taught me to focus on my studies in order to have a successful career in the future. My parents never finished college because of financial needs. This brought me to have one of my greatest motivations - to do well in school. My family keeps telling me that doing well in school will shape my dreams in life.

When my mother and I moved to California, the first thing I noticed was large skyscrapers which reminded me of the tall buildings in Manila. After one month, my father helped me to enroll in middle school close by our house. I was immediately classified as an English learner but I felt that I did not belong in that class so I tried my best to advance to another level of English class. I failed once on the test given for students who are still learning English, but it did not stop me from believing in myself that I could still reach my dreams in life and believing that I could be reclassified as fluent English proficient. As a result, I became a student who was transitioned into a college preparatory English class in high school with outstanding grades in all classes.

In the following year after we came to the United States, my little brother was born and my mother needed to begin work as a nursing assistant in a care center facility. From then on, I have taken the responsibility for taking care of my brother after school while my parents work.

There were many things that I wanted to get involved in school like sports but I cannot because I have the responsibility of babysitting my brother once I got home. As for clubs, I have joined some like, Higher Ground and California Scholarship Federation (CSF), but when they have activities after school, I cannot go because of the obligation I have in our house. In addition, there was a youth group in our church every weekend and I usually went when my parents were not on duty and will take care of my brother.

With all the obstacles that I faced in my life, I still always believed that someday I could become a professional Computer Engineer. I am determined to major in Computer Engineering to learn how to develop computer software and hardware. The qualifications of a successful Computer Engineer is the one who has a determination, imagination, strong interest in math, and dedication, and I consider myself to have all of these. My goal is to reach all my dreams in my life and to have a successful career in the future. I know that with my determination, the support of my family and my unwavering faith in God, I can achieve anything.

I strongly believe that I am a good candidate for this particular scholarship because my parents are not able to assist me financially with this year's school cost as we are considered to be a low income family where most of my parent's salaries are predominantly devoted to expenses we have in our apartment as well as insurance. Furthermore, the scholarship will be invested to the next chapter ahead of me and a big help to my family's needs.