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Math and science have always been two of the subjects that intrigue me. The logic behind both is perplexing. When the two come together, fireworks go off in my mind. One day in my differential equations, that was still very new to me. In my head, I was still trying to piece together exactly how they were supposed to be used and what they represented. This particular day was the first time we linked any sort of differential equation with physics. By this point, I knew how to figure out kinematic problems, using several kinematic equations to solve one problem, but the application we were using allowed us to solve the problem with a single equation and an initial condition. After seeing how a simple differential equation could be used to complete a complex projectile motion problem, I learned that it could be used to compute almost everything. We went even further with the applications and applied it to population prediction and financial investments. As we moved on to higher-order, non-homogeneous differential equations we were able to apply it to a spring that was experiencing a force from a damper as well as external forces. The one equation, $m\ddot{u} + \gamma\dot{u} + ku = F(t)$, could be used to solve all of these types of spring problems. It absolutely baffled me how something we had learned in physics the last three years was made so much simpler by one basic differential equation.

The reason I am applying for this scholarship, and why I think it would be so beneficial to me is because I would like to use it to further my studies. Things that I learn in school have the ability to absolutely baffle me and cause me to want to learn more. As you can see I appreciate mathematics for all that it is which is why I will be minoring in it. Math has always been my favorite subject because it is so logical. It has taught me problem solving and critical thinking at a level that most students will never get to experience. Biology will be my major with a pre-med track. I have loved biology ever since I was little. I was always fascinated by how the human anatomy and physiology come together to create life. I want to take my degree to continue studying in medical school and pursue a career as a doctor. This scholarship will help me jump-start my education that will determine the rest of my life.



My name is Samantha Keating and I was born in Palm Beach Gardens. In 9th grade I decided that I wanted to earn the **Congressional Gold Medal**. One of the things I needed to do was complete over 400 hours of volunteer service. Over the next few years, I accomplished this goal by getting involved in my local community. During this time, I learned to manage my time, organize events and work with a team. Most importantly I learned the value of making a positive impact on people's lives.

After I earned my **Congressional Gold Medal**, volunteering became an integral part of my life and I have donated over 2400 hours of my time and talents to different organizations. As Co-Chair Person of Cosmetics for A Cause, I collect makeup from cosmetic companies and individuals for distribution to non-profit organizations. I also participated in making over 3000 holiday cards and boxes for the troops. Earlier this year I began making holiday decorations and cards for the veterans on the hospice floor at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center.

I have learned through my volunteer work that I love to help others. This has inspired me to study American Sign Language for the past four years and to pursue a degree in Communications Sciences & Disorders so that I can make a positive impact on others' lives. As a member of my Student Government class, I was at an event where there was a little girl in attendance who was deaf. I went over to her and signed "Hello, what is your name?" The look of excitement and joy that instantly lit up her face as soon as she realized she could communicate with someone other than her aid was a defining moment for me. Being able to connect was thrilling for both of us. It showed me that I could make a difference in children's lives through communication, and that I can live a meaningful life by becoming a pediatric speech pathologist.

In order to achieve this, I have to earn bachelors and master's degrees, and possibly a PhD. This means I have four years of undergraduate school and at least two years of postgraduate education. In order to pay for my degrees and basic living needs while in school, I am gathering as many financial resources as possible so that I am not strapped with a huge debt that would limit my ability to be a self-sufficient and successful member of society. Currently I am studying hard to earn the Bright futures Scholarship and plan to work a part-time job while attending college to help offset tuition, housing costs and other fees. Receiving this scholarship would be very important to me because it would lessen the amount of loans I will have to take out and reduce the overall financial stress of higher education. I would sincerely appreciate this award and would do my best to make the most of it.