At age ten, I borrowed a broken calculator from my cousin and tried to fix it using a butter knife and duct tape. I didn't succeed, but I spent the entire afternoon studying its circuits, sketching how things might connect. That moment sparked something. Not just curiosity, but a kind of stubborn need to understand how things work. Over time, that interest grew into a full-blown love for engineering, one that shaped how I see the world and how I plan to contribute to it.

I am now in my third year of studying mechanical engineering, with a strong interest in energy systems and sustainable technology. My coursework has covered everything from thermodynamics and CAD modeling to renewable energy design. Each subject pulled me deeper into the field. What really solidified my direction, though, was a group project where we built a prototype of a low-cost solar water heater. I led the team's testing phase, and for the first time, I saw a design come alive, not just on paper, but in performance. That feeling has stayed with me ever since.

Outside the classroom, I've sought out as many hands-on experiences as possible. I interned with a small local firm focused on green building solutions. My supervisor gave me the chance to assist in real-time system adjustments for HVAC setups in low-income housing. I learned to work under pressure, ask better questions, and prioritize both function and cost. I also got to sit in on client meetings, which gave me a clearer picture of how engineering decisions affect everyday lives.

Financial challenges have always followed my education. I've worked as a math tutor since my second semester, and I spend weekends fixing bikes in a neighborhood repair shop. These jobs helped cover tuition and books, but they also taught me patience, routine, and how to

communicate with people from all walks of life. I've carried those lessons into my academic work, where I try to approach problems with both logic and empathy.

This scholarship would relieve a burden that grows heavier each semester. I've managed to stay afloat with careful budgeting and part-time work, but time is a limited resource. With this support, I could take on a larger research role in our campus energy lab, where I've been a part-time assistant since last fall. My current responsibilities include recording test results for battery storage experiments. If granted more hours, I hope to contribute to design improvements and help write the upcoming project brief.

My long-term goal is to develop affordable energy solutions that can be deployed in off-grid communities. I grew up in a rural area where power outages were frequent, and I still remember studying by candlelight during storm seasons. That memory drives my ambition. I want to work on systems that make energy stable, clean, and accessible, starting with places that often get overlooked in major infrastructure plans.

So far, I've maintained a GPA of 3.92, while juggling work, research, and a full course load. I've also been involved with the engineering student group on campus, where I help organize outreach events for local schools. We run hands-on workshops where kids build paper bridges or simple circuits. I enjoy watching them light up when something works. It reminds me of that old calculator and everything that followed.

I believe in learning that stays active, in work that touches real people. This belief shapes the way I study, the way I approach problems, and the way I plan for the future. I'm not trying to

fast-track my way to a job. I want to build things that last, that help, that solve. That requires focus, time, and tools - things this scholarship would help provide.

Thank you for reading my application. I hope you see the work I've done, and the direction I'm committed to. I'll continue to work with intention, and if chosen, I'll treat this support as fuel. Not a reward, but a responsibility.