Broadcom Scholarship Nomination Essay

Apoorva Mohite

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Growing up in India, I often felt like the odds were stacked against me as a woman pursuing a career in computer science. Having been a gold medallist and a top-performing student throughout my education, I was constantly bombarded with messages that girls weren't meant to excel in this field, and that even if we did, we were only good at acing exams. Even when I excelled in my job, I was never fully acknowledged or appreciated for my hard work, the credit always went to my male counterparts. It was disappointing to see that the same dedication and passion that were celebrated in men were viewed as frivolous or unnecessary in women. Despite these stereotypes, I refused to let them hold me back, and worked tirelessly to prove my capabilities.

I am passionate about increasing the representation of women in computer science, and I believe that mentorship is a powerful tool for achieving this goal. I am proud to be a mentor for underrepresented students including women at San Jose City College. By sharing my knowledge and experience with these students, I hope to inspire and empower the next generation of computer scientists.

Being a full-time, international graduate student, managing two part-time jobs, and maintaining a GPA of 4.0, I am constantly striving to push myself beyond my limits and take every learning opportunity that comes my way.

As a Research Assistant with Dr. Ben Reed, I have the exciting opportunity to work on an interdisciplinary wildfire research project that is paving the way for new innovations in the intersection of computer science and environmental issues. This project is not only shaping my career trajectory, but also contributing towards addressing one of the most pressing issues of our time - wildfires. I am thrilled to be part of this impactful research, and I can't wait to see where this journey takes me.

I am also excited about the prospect of conducting research in the field of distributed systems and blockchains. During my undergraduate studies, I published a paper to IEEEXplore, that was based on the potential applications of blockchain technology in the government sector. In the paper, I explored how blockchain could be used to reduce corruption and increase transparency in government operations. Currently, I am also taking a class on distributed systems, which has given me a new, wider perspective on the field and further fueled my excitement to conduct research in this area.

Since starting my master's program, I have become increasingly interested in pursuing a PhD in computer science. However, I am also aware of the significant financial burden that comes with pursuing a PhD. The Broadcom scholarship, would greatly reduce my current financial burden and allow me to seriously consider pursuing a PhD. Receiving this scholarship will allow me to focus on my academic work and continue exploring new learning opportunities. It will also be a recognition of my hard work and dedication to computer science and motivate me to achieve even greater success in my academic and professional career.

This degree has been a critical step towards realizing my goals. With the support of this scholarship, I will be able to focus on my studies and work towards my dream of becoming a woman leader in the field. I am eager to continue pushing myself beyond my limits, learning from renowned researchers, and making a positive impact on society through my work.