

ZEKEYA L. GLADNEY



High school

Memphis Academy of Science & Engineering (MASE)

Intended major

Environmental Engineering

College

United States Military Academy at West Point

12th
Grade

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE YOUR PARTICULAR MAJOR?

As a little girl, I was always interested about the weather and how it affects the environment around us. Now, I remain fascinated with all aspects of weather adaptations; such as erosions and pollutions. I am captivated by extreme weather, including drought, flooding and severe storms. I am intrigued by the effects of weather-related threats caused by human activity. Attending GEE certainly helped influence my decision to pursue an Environmental Engineering degree. Majoring in Environmental Engineering will enhance my understanding of the weather and climate, their impact on the environment, and what engineers have done to help reduce these effects. I further plan to focus on Meteorology or Climate Engineering in graduate school.

WHEN DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN GEE? HOW DID GEE HELP YOU TO PURSUE YOUR GOALS?

I became involved in GEE the summer of my 8th grade school year. That summer my mother enrolled me in 6 different weeklong summer camps. Each of these camps varied from character building, etiquette, gaming, coding, robotics and STEM activities. I enjoyed the GEE camp the most. Therefore, my mother ensured I attended each year following. Attending the GEE summer camps initiated my spark to pursue an engineering major. I enjoyed the teamwork, thought-provoking and competitive activities. My favorite activity was building a bridge to withstand the earthquake simulator. Additionally, attending GEE was an essential highlight of character building on my academic resume.



ENGINEERING/STEM PATHS REQUIRE A LOT OF DEDICATION. HOW DID YOU STAY MOTIVATED TO PURSUE THIS EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY?

Staying motivated is one of the toughest tasks and biggest obstacles to achieving success in pursuing an Engineering/STEM educational pathway. Balancing my studies and extra-curricular activities can be challenging at times. So weekly, I make a list of what I want to get accomplished. Aside from everyday responsibilities, I set realistic and attainable goals. This helps me to remain focused. I have always had a good sense of priorities. I disconnect from distractions and this helps ensure I always get the important things done.

ZEKEYA L. GLADNEY



High school

Memphis Academy of Science & Engineering (MASE)

Intended major

Environmental Engineering

College

United States Military Academy at West Point

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS?

My desire is to be a meteorologist. Although I am adorable, fashionable, and confident, I do not crave to be just the pretty face on the television screen. I aspire to be the scientist and the engineer behind the latest weather technology. I not only want to study the effects of the environment and climate changes; I desire to work with advanced technological development that prevents pollution and avoids ecological damage.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHER YOUNG WOMEN WHO ARE JUST ENTERING THE GEE PROGRAM?



My advice to other GEE students is to grasp hold to everything this program has to offer. The camp will be fun and engaging. You will enjoy learning basic STEM skills while making new friends and improving social skills that will be helpful in your future endeavors. Because of this program I was introduced to and participated in other programs such as VEX Robotics Camp and the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis's Young Women's Advisory Council (YWAC).

Because of the GEE program I learned about experimentation, teamwork, knowledge application, problem solving, resilience, and the ability to adapt to different situations. These tools were all essential qualifications that enhanced my academic resume; especially when applying for colleges and scholarships.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO THE SPONSORS OF GEE?

To the sponsors of GEE, I would like to thank each of you for your dedication to this program. Thanks for providing an opportunity to get me out of my comfort zone. Because of GEE's encouragement and training, I'm no longer the shy, timid young lady that entered the program in 8th grade. Because of your impact, I embodied the confidence to apply and be accepted into the prestigious West Point Military Academy. Forever a GEE alumnus, I hope to make you proud.

Thank you to our sponsors!



FARRADAY NICOLA JOHNSON



High school

Craigmont High School

Intended major

Biomedical Engineering

College

University of Memphis

9th
Grade

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE YOUR PARTICULAR MAJOR?

Many aspects influenced my decision of the major I chose. The love of STEM and the desire to become a doctor influenced me to pursue Biomedical Engineering. I wasn't always good at math and science, but I grew to love them. Knowing that I will have the ability to change someone's life by developing a prosthetic, medical device, and more piqued my interest. My sister who is majoring in this also impacted my decision. I have always looked up to her and admired her for her diligence and hard work.

WHEN DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN GEE? HOW DID GEE HELP YOU TO PURSUE YOUR GOALS?

I became involved in GEE during my tenth-grade summer. I'll admit that I wasn't interested in STEM at first. However, I gave GEE a second chance and loved it. I attended the transportation camp where we created a little K'Nex robotic car. It was so fun to me. GEE piqued my interest in Engineering and is the main reason I chose my major. To any girl that is unsure if they will like Engineering or GEE, just give it a chance or a second one if that's what it takes. In such a short time it will make a difference in your life.



ENGINEERING/STEM PATHS REQUIRE A LOT OF DEDICATION. HOW DID YOU STAY MOTIVATED TO PURSUE THIS EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY?

My family motivated me to choose this path. Having people support me made a difference. I doubted myself and my abilities, but now I know I am very capable of completing this path. GEE ambassadors and mentors are also very supportive in my endeavor. As a young woman when I look at all of these women doing what they love, it shows me that I can do the same. I can be just like them. That is also why I love GEE so much because we get to hear countless women's experiences and how they got through the hard times in STEM. It is an amazing feeling to know that you are not alone on your journey.



FARRADAY NICOLA JOHNSON

High school

Craigmont High School

Intended major

Biomedical Engineering

College

University of Memphis

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS?

I aspire to become a dermatologist. I love skincare because it is so refreshing. Being a dermatologist would allow me to treat so many illnesses such as skin cancers and acne. My ultimate goal is to raise the self-confidence of women and men all around the world. My intent is also to aid those who are in agony. I want to also incorporate my biomedical engineering skills with dermatology. In this way, I create different tools and treatments to better assist peoples' issues.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHER YOUNG WOMEN WHO ARE JUST ENTERING THE GEE PROGRAM?



Take advantage of your resources in GEE. Your ambassadors are currently in the STEM field, so ask them a lot of questions about college. If there is a guest speaker present ask them about their field. With STEM there are so many different majors or fields that you can go into. The best thing is to have at least a basic knowledge of most of the majors. This helps because when it's time for you to choose what field you want to major in, you will know.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO THE SPONSORS OF GEE?

I appreciate all the sponsors of GEE for recognizing the need for women in STEM fields. Thank you for taking the step into investing in so many young ladies' futures, including mine. Because of you, so many women have their self-confidence raised. Now they know that they can pursue a STEM field and they are smart enough. This is what GEE has instilled in me and this is all because of you. Thank you.

Thank you to our sponsors!

