

Emily Hall

Sparks, NV.

The Academy of Arts Careers and Technology

### What Drives You?

Gazing upon the starry sky sparks immense curiosity within me. Questions about space exploration, sustainability of Earth's natural resources, and the future of human advancement overtake my thoughts. Along with these thoughts, I experience a feeling of determination towards the thought of being able to solve these problems through the use of engineering. However, one thing I have learned is that for the world to progress, it requires the perspectives and experiences of individuals of all backgrounds.

Discovering my drive began in elementary school. Like most elementary schoolers, I didn't know what I wanted to be when I grew up. It wasn't until 3rd grade when several engineering students from The University of Nevada Reno came to talk to me and my peers about what they do. These students told us about their amazing engineering projects and the NASA internships they had been a part of. Listening to these students sparked a realization: I have the power to be a problem solver. The idea of coming up with solutions to society's problems and building them made me ecstatic. From that day I viewed the world from a new perspective.

As I entered high school I began to get serious about my passion for engineering. Being accepted into the engineering academy at The Academy of Arts Careers and Technology, I

entered into an engineering curriculum and joined the Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC). HERC challenges high school and college students from around the world to develop a human powered rover and showcase it in a competition in Huntsville Alabama. My time in HERC deepened my passion for engineering. I learned about the engineering design process and the significance of collaboration. Being a part of a team full of unique individuals created an environment saturated with ideas. Working with a team displayed the truth that success is far more achievable when individuals come together with their own ideas.

During my junior and senior year, I had the opportunity to provide STEM engagement activities to over 300 middle and elementary school students about 3D printing and gravity. One of the schools was my elementary school. Seeing the enthusiastic look on the students faces as I talked about 3D printing brought back memories of how I felt when I was engaged in STEM. This is when I realized the importance of STEM engagement.

In a world full of unanswered questions and persistent challenges, engineers are of great importance. For solutions to be made, it requires a diversity of mindsets to collaborate. I am driven to discover the unknown and solve the world's problems, but for this to be accomplished it is essential that more people become involved in STEM. Being exposed to STEM in elementary school inspired me to develop a passion for engineering, so throughout my journey to becoming an engineer, I am driven to kindle the same feeling of inspiration in other students to create a world full of unique engineering ideas.