

Dylan Ortega

12th Grade

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New Mexico

What Drives Me?

The whirl of my computer clicked on, but it sounded unusual like strumming of fingers along a comb. "An unexpected error occurred," my little laptop read across the command screen. Being young, curious, and perhaps a bit reckless, I shut the computer and flipped it over, removing the casing. With a bit of struggle, I got it open and examined the components I was looking at cluelessly. Seeing the inside of this device, the idea that a series of small parts could be constructed to create the most revolutionary technology of the twenty-first century was mind-boggling. I was so intrigued by the device, I tried to power it back on to deduce the problem however there was no whirl realizing I had broken it in the process of disassembling it. However, my interest peaked at the sight of these tiny parts.

I have always known that I love to solve problems and intricate puzzles. I built my first computer at 15 and realized that being knowledgeable in these areas could truly open many doors for me. Assembling machines ranging from budget pc's all the way to high-end monsters capable of running intense simulations or exporting large videos and files, I became a resource for all of my friends' hardware issues. Recently, while I was working at my local thrift shop, they were installing self-checkouts and I was talking to one of the electricians and he explained to me how the antenna they were wiring worked. I was fascinated and began to do my own research and found that I was imagining a future where I was working in this field. I was inspired and

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came to the conclusion that electrical engineering was the perfect area of study for me as I would not only be able to do what I love, but use my skills to help my community. My ever-persistent curiosity and compulsion to help people has driven me to pursue a masters degree in electrical engineering.

I'm excited to say, I plan to attend New Mexico State University. This school is perfect as it will provide me with opportunities to serve my own community I grew up in while also continuing my curiosity to grow and learn. After leaving NMSU I hope to land an internship or job with Tesla, Sandia Labs, or another small tech firm to be involved with some big projects that hopefully have some sort of positive impact on the environment or communities in need. After working and acquiring some sort of financial success, I plan to use my money and invest in my own properties, real estate, and small upcoming tech companies in order to create more forms of passive income. My ultimate goal however is to eventually open my own tech firm based out of New Mexico dedicated to providing advancements in some sort of technology to help the people out my own backyard and many other struggling places in the world! A combination of my ambition, my mind that is always thinking, and my unrelenting desire to serve others with my abilities will drive me to happiness and success.