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When my family moved from Calgary, Alberta to Salt Lake City I wasn't expecting much to change. I thought it was just another city, but I quickly realized how different it was. Calgary had been home—friends, routine, and a sense of belonging. In Salt Lake City, everything felt unfamiliar, and I struggled to adjust. I felt like an outsider and, for a while, just went through the motions—school, home, repeat—without passion or direction.

Things started to change when I signed up for engineering classes at Jordan Tech, part of Salt Lake Community College. I wasn't really interested at first. I just needed the credits for high school graduation. As soon as I started learning about aerospace engineering, something changed. The material was challenging and I found myself enjoying it. I loved figuring out how things worked, whether it was a car or a plane. For the first time, I felt excited about school. My grades improved and I felt like I had purpose.

Since then, I've explored both automotive and aerospace engineering. I've spent hours researching car engines, learning about different types like V8s, inline-fours, and boxers. I am into car modifications and restorations, watching videos, reading forums, and learning about the engineering behind cars. That interest even pushed me to get my driver's license, something I had been putting off for over a year.

I've always been fascinated by airplanes, too. During long flights like to England, I'm glued to the window, watching the world from 35,000 feet. The idea of flying over such vast distances fascinates me—how people engineered these machines to make that possible. Looking down at the mountains and cities below, I realized how much I want to be a part of that process. I felt inspired to pursue aerospace engineering and contribute to the future of aviation.

Now, I'm determined to study mechanical engineering at the University of Utah, where I can further my interest in aerospace and automotive engineering. The university's strong ties to the local aerospace industry make it the perfect place for me to grow and work toward my dream of designing vehicles that inspire the same sense of wonder I've felt. Outside of school, I have a small group of friends that I spend time with. I help out with my parents' small farm and sauna rental business; they are STEM professionals and like to point out how everything works. I also joined a school robotics club, where I've worked on projects with other students and developed leadership skills. I believe I'm a good candidate for this scholarship because I've overcome challenges, pushed myself to learn new things, and found a true passion in engineering. This scholarship will help me continue my education and make an impact, both at school and in my community. With a degree in engineering, I hope to contribute to the aerospace industry, designing vehicles that support the future.