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November 10, 2022

Dear Jillian,

I went to a small, private high school outside Philadelphia. When I say small, I mean I had only 22 kids in my graduating class. So, coming to Pitt, I knew how important it was to form a community I could call mine and lean on for support. At the Swanson School of Engineering, I joined Pitt Excel and the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). I traveled to China with other engineering and business students through Pitt Plus3, an interdisciplinary study abroad program. This past March, I got to escape the Pittsburgh weather and attend the NSBE conference in Anaheim, California, where I met engineers who look like me and achieved their biggest dreams—making it a lot easier to imagine achieving my own.

But I wouldn't have been able to find that community or embrace those opportunities without the help of my University scholarship. **Thanks to the support of friends and donors like you, I was able to make my education and experiences my full-time job.** And, without the shadow of student debt hanging over me, I'm now applying to graduate schools with the goal of becoming an expert in electrochemical engineering.

Pitt really helped me find my place and create my path, and I'm sure it helped you, too. **Will you empower other students to pursue their ambitions and build their communities by making a gift of \$100 to The Pitt Fund?** Your gift will help support the areas that have impacted my student experience most, like scholarships, experiential learning and research opportunities.

Getting an education is important, but so is taking advantage of opportunities outside the classroom. You can make sure every student gets the chance to make the most of their time at Pitt, just like I have.

Sincerely,



Maxwell Vance
Class of 2022

P.S. Receiving a scholarship from Pitt was one of the main reasons I chose to attend. It made all of my hard work worth it and showed how much the University believed in my potential. You can help other students feel that same way by making your gift at giveto.pitt.edu/donatepitt today. Remember, gifts made by December 31, 2022, may qualify for a tax deduction.

