

An Open Letter to CEOs

When I was in middle school, my friend and I were the only two girls on our robotics team. Our competitors never asked, "How did you design and program that?" Instead, they asked, "You made that?" They never took us seriously.

This experience fueled me to continue pursuing STEM. I wanted to help change these stigmas. So, when I found out that I got into a high school STEM internship at Abbott, I cried. I had never felt so proud.

The top manager for my group was a female chemical engineer. It was inspiring to see a woman in a position of power in engineering. Over the summer, I met more and more strong women succeeding in STEM.

I went back to school feeling empowered and didn't let anyone talk down to me. I wanted to take what I learned and share it with other young girls.

It's so important that girls grow up seeing people like them succeeding in STEM, or else many of them might just give up on their dreams. I urge you to please consider creating more internship programs like the one I experienced.

If you do, you'll change girls' lives, and maybe even change the world.

Sincerely,

Allison H. Age 18
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