

An Open Letter to CEOs

At age 11, I was fighting with my brother over a Thermos of hot cocoa when a question popped into my mind: Why do some containers keep liquids hotter than others? I've since realized that simple "why" questions like this were the root of my interest in STEM.

I was eager to explore STEM in high school, but I soon discovered that the science-based club in my school was dominated by males. It wasn't a place where girls like me felt welcomed or encouraged.

Thankfully, I was accepted into Abbott's high school STEM internship program, where I work alongside female managers responsible for entire Endovascular departments! They have answers to all my "why" questions, and they've opened my eyes to what the future of STEM could look like for women like me. They even inspired me and my friends to start our own high school club, where students discuss the latest STEM technologies, spotlight women innovators, and talk about various career opportunities.

We need CEOs to make programs like these more readily available in order to close the gender gap in STEM. It's imperative we act now. The only question I have for you is: Why not?

Sincerely,
Skyler H, Age 18
Temecula, CA