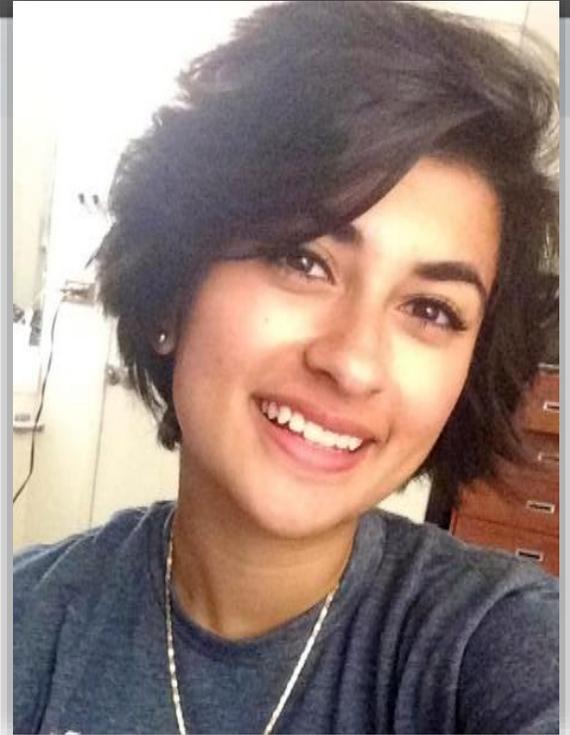


STEM

Student Ambassador Spotlight

Maria Muñoz

Mechanical Engineering Student at the University of Memphis
Medtronic Ambassador



Q How did you select your college major/certification program?

A After speaking with multiple advisors, friends, and family members, I found I had a love for the health field. After that realization, I just needed to decide which career I wanted to pursue and how far I wanted to go with my degree.

Q How did you select your college major/certification program?

A I have always loved math and science. That being said, I knew I was going to select a STEM major. After some research on some math-related careers, I came across engineering. The hardest part in choosing my major was choosing a branch of engineering. After I narrowed it down to computer engineering and mechanical engineering, I ended up going with mechanical engineering because I wanted to build things like a car or toy robot—something that would move.

Q What was the biggest influence in your selection of major/career?

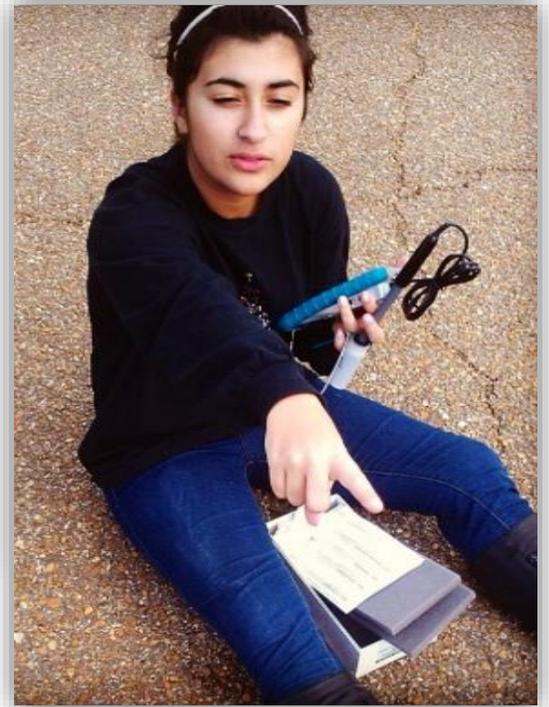
A My biggest influence was wanting to change the world. That is what engineers do. I also know that there aren't many women who pursue this career. For that reason, I want to encourage and inspire more women to select this major or any other STEM major.

Q If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

A AP Chemistry, because now that I have to take chemistry, I wish I was more prepared for it. Also, AP courses in general really help prepare you for college.

Q What is your favorite aspect of your major?

A My favorite aspect of my major is creating something that will improve people's way of living.



Q How does you/your major make a positive impact on society/our community?

A A good engineer creates things that improve the way of living. We take an idea and create something that will help people.

Q What's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your college career?

A The most interesting thing so far has been meeting so many people in STEM fields, like the people from Medtronic. Meeting these professionals has been a great experience because they are doing what I plan on doing in the future.

Q What makes you get up each morning excited about your major?

A Thinking about being able to change the world in the future and inspire people.

Q What advice would you share with K-12 students who are considering your major?

A Don't give up! Don't let people or hard classes intimidate you. It's going to be hard but in the end it will be worth it.



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