

An Open Letter to CEOs

When I was younger, you could always find me with a stethoscope wrapped around my neck. I'd bug anyone and everyone to let me check their heartbeat. Something about the rhythmic booming fascinated me.

I continued to be drawn to science throughout my early childhood. But once I got to middle school, it was demoralizing to see that I was the only girl in my higher level STEM classes. There was constant pressure to prove that I deserved to be there too.

These struggles lasted until high school, when I got into Abbott's internship program. I worked alongside a team of female scientists with a passion for STEM. They had a vested interest in my education, and the work they did made me realize just how many lives I could impact.

I wish more girls could have opportunities like this, because I know the STEM world could use more brilliant female minds. But this is only possible if CEOs are willing to establish programs that engage girls in STEM at an early age.

As a result of my internship, human biology is no longer just my fascination. The more I learn, the more I see that it's my calling.

Sincerely,

Fiona H., Age 17
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