

Broadcom Scholarship

Thank you for nominating me for this scholarship, it is an honor. I would like to introduce myself to start out. My name is Kengo Kobayashi and I am a CS graduate student at SJSU, I was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy from birth; affecting my ability to stand and balance. I use two wheelchairs for my mobility, a manual chair for moving around in my room, and an electric-powered chair for going out long distances.

As a CS graduate student, I believe I am doing well in school. I consult with my professors whenever I come across issues with deadlines or assignments. One of the common problems I come across is the necessity for more time on programming assignments because I am not a fast typer. Furthermore, if I type for an extensive amount of time my hands would cramp, and need a rest. Thankfully, professors have been understanding and have accommodated me, which reduces a lot of stress. Overall, everyone has been very kind and understanding of my condition.

My greatest struggle was accepting who I was as a person in the past. Being different from others and having outcasted by certain activities in or outside of school. I despised who I was and questioned what purpose I have for being born with such a disadvantage; it constantly felt like I had chains wrapped around me, restricting who I could really become. Questioning the relationships I had at the time: Are people befriending me because of pity or sympathy? I often thought of how different my life would have been without this disability.

My greatest achievement was finally accepting who I was and living the life I was meant to live. I realized that I have amazing friends and family because of my current life and situation, if I was born differently I would not come across the same people. I felt extremely free being

able to pursue my bachelor's and later graduate, which is my other greatest achievement that I hold dear. Now in the present time, I am furthering my career by pursuing a master's degree.

The \$5000 scholarship would help tremendously towards my finances. I would use the money towards paying my tuition and assisting my parents financially by unburdening them with paying for it. If I end up not using the money for my tuition I would keep it in my savings to use during emergency situations. Thank you again for nominating me and I hope my story can help someone that is struggling with something similar.