

Michael Thomas

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Heartfish Brady, DR. Scholarship Essay

I grew up in the small town of Kankakee, IL, loved and cared for by my mother Dawn Thomas. From K - 8th grade I attended LCC Montrossville where I learned independence and how much I enjoyed learning. From there I attended Kankakee High School to become a leader in the classroom which translated to who I am today. As of now I am a rising junior at Spelman College, where I study computer science and try to stay active with school and social life. I was not always a computer science major, I had a passion for medicine, but my passion slowly died as I knew God had a better plan for me. I was always a computer whiz, from fixing my uncle and grandfather's computers, to coding and playing video games at home. Even taking my first coding class at Spelman, I knew computer science was for me. After a lot of research, I knew I did not want to be involved with working for Google and Microsoft, especially with all the layoffs. That is when I got invited to take my first trip to NYC to visit Citibank, this opened my eyes to the immense possibilities of computer science and how I can grow in my career. Here, I found my passion for financial technology as well as leadership in corporate spaces. The number of black leaders that came and spoke life into me changed me forever.

I have always had this gut feeling about making the right decisions. When I first stepped onto Spelman's campus, this warm embrace took over and I just knew this is where I had to be. I got this same feeling with Cit and after a lot of challenging work, I got offered an internship working with them in a leadership role for 2024 and after the completion of that internship I will