

Form Summary

Name	Eniola Ayo-Gbenjo
Email	eayogbenjo@gmail.com
Phone	301-518-2660
Birth date	11/18/2002
Age	19
Please Check All that Apply:	African American/Black
High School:	
High School Mailing Address:	
High School Guidance Counselor:	
High School Contact Phone #	
GPA:	
Class Rank:	
Graduation Date:	
College Name:	University of Pittsburgh
Intended Major/Field of Study:	Health Sciences
Church Name/Pastor (if member):	RCCG Victory Temple Bowie/ Pastor Bayo Adeyokunnu

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Community Service and/or Extra Curricular Activities (if any):

Volunteer, UPMC Shadyside Hospital

- Co-Lead “Bedside Boogie,” an inpatient movement/dance program to aid patient physical recovery

Research Intern, NIH Summer Internship Program
Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

- Studying adeno-associated viruses to develop gene therapies for spinal cord injuries

Mentor, Strong Women, Strong Girls

- Mentor elementary-aged girls in the Pittsburgh area through curriculum-based activities that encourage diversity, self-confidence, and leadership

Founder and Executive Director, The Dance Obsession

- led and oversaw free virtual dance lessons for county youth to promote racial and socioeconomic diversity within the dance community

- Over 200 students in Grades 4-8 were enrolled

Programming Chair, Leading Women Of Tomorrow

- Plan and initiate campus events that showcase women leadership such as keynote speaking events

Pitt's Hearts Ablaze Christian Dance Ministry

Secretary and Dancer

- Perform dance as a form of worship

- Organize team schedule and plan performance events

Student Member, Premedical Organization for Minority Students (POMS)

- Participate and engage with nurturing organization activities that aim to prepare underrepresented students for a career in medicine

Peer Educator, Sexual Assault Facilitation And Education
Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- Promote a more inclusive campus community by educating peers on relevant issues such as relationship violence and bystander intervention

Honors and Awards (if any):

Recipient Of the National Society of High School Scholars
Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Award in 2020 for my work in
advancing diversity within the dance community

Recipient of the Women Empowering Nations and Cantu Beauty
Scholarship Award 2022 for current demonstrated leadership
and promising potential to lead in the future

Name published as Co-Author in research poster presentation at
the 2020 National Athletic Trainers' Association Conference for
my work in dance medicine research

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Please list below the names and amounts of any grants or scholarships you have been awarded for the coming school year:

Name of Award: Amount: Granted/Pending:

University of Pittsburgh Academic Scholarship/ \$10,000/
Granted (my current cost of attendance is \$35,000)

Women Empowering Nations and Cantu Beauty Scholarship/
\$1000/ Granted

Please share your educational and career goals/aspirations and how you plan to move toward greatness:

I am disheartened by the fact that many minority patients seek healthcare for healing but receive discrimination in the process. After taking a medical humanities course, I learned that there are increasing trends of minority health disparities in today's healthcare system. Though there are various reasons why this may be the case, it all comes down to the education and exposure that physicians receive within their medical training. Instead of incorporating a curriculum that focuses on treating the patient as an individual or approaches that focus on cultural competency, health professionals are trained with the perception that each patient is another "science case." Unfortunately, I believe my African American mother was seen as one of these "cases." More specifically, after experiencing a debilitating stroke, she sought physical therapists to help her regain her mobility. Instead of receiving genuine care, she received inconsiderate words in a time of vulnerability for her. Her experience sparked a greater motive for me to pursue medicine; I did not want any other patient to experience what my mother did.

As an aspiring physician, I want to embody the idea that medicine is less about science and more about people. With this goal in mind, I know that this mentality needs to be instilled within me, starting from the undergraduate level. In college, I intend on pursuing an undergraduate degree in Health Sciences before going into medical school. With this degree, I will become educated on not only the scientific aspects of medicine but also how to treat patients holistically. Courses that focus on everything from health policy to public health are ingrained within a degree in Health Sciences. For instance, if I take a course on patient-physician interaction, I will become aware of how to treat and interact with patients from various backgrounds, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses. These factors are vital to a patient's experience and are often overlooked today by healthcare providers. I believe this degree will instill in me that healthcare is not about the science that defines an individual's condition. Rather, it is about the people whose lives are changed and impacted by healthcare each day.

To me, being great means to live bigger than myself and what society has limited me to as a Black woman, bettering our society in the process. I am aware that I will experience inevitable challenges in my path toward greatness in America. However, I am willing to disregard them if it means a patient receives unbiased care or a community is improved healthwise. I hope to bring healing to the currently broken healthcare system through health initiatives and community engagements that would work to make healthcare more equitable. For example, knowing that there is a health knowledge gap in the Black community, contributing to the health disparities mentioned before, I intend to

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establish free educational programs that could decrease the disparity trends. I am not only pursuing my undergraduate studies in Health Sciences to go to medical school, but I am also getting it for the betterment of the healthcare system and all the patients and communities I will serve in the future. As a recipient of this scholarship, my tuition bill will no longer be my focus. Instead, I will be able to focus on the education that is the foundation of my path to greatness. Thank you for your consideration.