

Dear all,

To those who are unfamiliar with me or may never have met me, I am an alumna of the Mechanical Engineering program. I started fall of 2014 and graduated spring 2019 with my bachelor's in ME and minors in math and CS.

In my last few years at Mines I was a member of the Hardrocker Human Powered Vehicle (HHPV) CAMP team and lead the 2018-19 HHPV senior design team. And there was also that compass project... Regardless, I am writing to say thank you yet again for the special support, opportunities, and guidance I received during my time at Mines. I have recently been named an awardee of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP) in the field of computational mathematics. The most difficult part of the application was choosing a research topic, and despite being situated in computational mathematics, my research proposal for the GRFP was in the end inspired by my time with CAMP and the Human Powered Vehicle team.

The CAMP program and my many classes with Mines remain a hugely influential part of my career and life. In accepting this award from the NSF I wanted to give a special thank you yet again to Dr. Dolan, Dr. Romkes, and Dr. Lalley for their constant help, support, guidance, and inspiration throughout my undergrad. Being able to bridge the gaps between engineering and mathematics, theory and practicality and effectively communicating the results has constantly been what has set me apart. I would not be able to do so with the degree of success I have enjoyed without their examples and advice.

From an internship with BP (British Petroleum)'s Center for High Performance Computing last summer, suffice it to say industry is quite pleased with engineers who have both strong theoretical prowess and practical, real-world intuition. Mines gave me both. While I am now in computational math, my heart will always be with mechanical engineering and the school that first taught it to me. As one of my NSF reviewers even said, I remain more of an engineer than a mathematician—and that will likely always be the case. Thank you yet again for helping prepare me for an amazing career.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Christina Taylor