Rachel Daniels

Rachel graduated from Poolesville High School in Maryland, where she was an AP Scholar with Distinction. She was the Maryland affiliate winner of the NCWIT Award for Aspiration in Computing 2020, 2021. She also won Best App, Baltimore CodeDay Hackathon 2019.

In addition to her academic awards, Rachel was the high school's track and field MVP and sprinter team captain. She also was Executive Board Member & Secretary of the Minority Scholars Program and Chapter Cofounder of STEMillions. STEMillions connects primary and secondary school girls with STEM professionals. She was an NSA high school work study computer aide intern, a NIH intern and Comcast Pathways Program Intern. At Comcast Rachel use Python computer programming language to construct data analytics to drive business decisions.

Rachel volunteered with the Leo Club to collect clothing and blankets during the winter holidays for charitable donations. She also tutored younger students in math and Spanish.

Rachel says in her personal essay, "Online mortgage loan algorithms that deny Black and Latino borrowers…Public restrooms soap dispensers that don't spew for darker hands. All share the commonality of being manifestations of discrimination that stem from a lack of diversity in the technology sector. I plan to investigate machine learning and dispel the myth that algorithms and AI cannot be discriminatory…the demographic gaps that currently plague STEM fields will be lessened, perhaps in part due to the research conducted by Haewan Jeong and other alumni (Harvard). Her use of machine learning models to investigate biases in STEM is the type of research I am invested in expanding."

Rachel Daniels is a recipient of the Dawna J Colbert scholarship from the TCGi Foundation and will attend Harvard in the fall. Rachel will receive $10,000 for her first four semesters. She has the option to apply for an additional $10,000.