

CSU Noyce Scholar Application Essay, Brandee D. Stanton

It has taken a few years of internal debates to finally realize not only that I want to become a high school chemistry teacher, but why I want to do so. Some people aspire to become teachers while others are magnetically drawn to the art. Others are inspired by previous teachers or the desire to make a difference in education. My reasons are a combination of many factors, but are fairly simple. I want to solidify my chemistry knowledge and become an effective educator, I want to promote science literacy in minorities, and I really enjoy working with children.

I've loved chemistry since high school. I often refer to my old chemistry textbooks for definitions, explanations, and calculation examples. My notes and lab books have been invaluable tools for reference. I'm impressed by the organization of the period table. I think the aqueous solutions of the transition metals are beautiful. I enjoy handling glassware and other lab apparatus. I often refer to my old chemistry textbooks for definitions, explanations, and calculation examples. My notes and lab books have been invaluable tools for reference. The chemistry I learned as an undergraduate was just a tasty sampling of everything the discipline has to offer. There is no way that I remember each rule and the exceptions all of them. I do not know every element on the periodic chart, but I want to. Teaching a subject helps you learn and master that subject. What better way to become a more effective chemist and educator than to reinforce and solidify my own knowledge by teaching it to others? The Noyce scholarship would remove the financial burden of tuition and allow me to dedicate my focus on learning the principals of secondary education and effective teaching methods, so that I can successfully communicate vital information and skills to the students.

Various government agencies have allocated monies to increase the number of American scientists whose focus includes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Even further, initiatives are in place to increase the representation of minority STEM professionals. The Robert Noyce Scholarship program is one of such initiatives, as it prepares minority teachers to educate minority STEM students. The first major encounter that urban teens have with subjects like chemistry, physics or calculus is high school. I believe young students need to be taught the necessary information and skills early on to be successful in advanced science education and careers. However, the majority of teachers that serve in settings whose populations are mainly African-American or Latino are not African-American or Latino themselves. I believe that minority students are more likely to be receptive to these STEM courses if the instructors are also African-American or Latino themselves. It makes sense that students have personal examples of STEM professionals who look like them and have come from schools like theirs. I believe most minority educators have a personal sense of the

obstacles that minority students face because they have experienced them as well. I would specifically like to be a part of Chicago's public school system as I would serve the community in which I have been educated and continue to live.

I have worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the state of Illinois for the past 12 years. For the past 3 years, I have worked as a school nurse serving children aged 5 to 19, in both the public and private setting. I enjoy working with them because they are funny, full of energy, and receptive to the world around them. I have always been highly energetic and eager to have fun with children. Also, as a parent of a 3 year old boy, I've learned to be patient because children and teenagers can be trying! The relationship that I develop with children has always allowed me to provide better nursing care as sometimes they reveal things to me that may not otherwise be known to their parents or teachers. Children and adolescents tend to engage in conversation and develop a rapport with adults who show genuine interest and concern in their well being. It's important that children know you respect their personal interests because then they'll respect yours. It also helps if you are familiar with the latest video game character or teen celebrity to keep you connected to their world. I believe that adolescents will become interested in science if the teacher is energetic, motivated, and excited about the subject they teach.

Becoming a high school chemistry teacher is beneficial to me in several ways. The Noyce scholarship will enable me to become an effective educator and reinforce my knowledge of science, chemistry, and secondary education. I want to encourage minority students to pursue subjects that are challenging so they can demonstrate and share their knowledge with others. Becoming a high school chemistry teacher allows me to accomplish my goal of promoting science literacy in the urban community. Finally, children are fun and exciting and it's a pleasure for me to work with them. Some say teaching is a noble profession. I say teach students about noble gases.