

Since early childhood, I have always had a plethora of pets that I am fond of and consider a part of the family; everything from iguanas, lizards, skinks, turtles, fish, birds, an American Chameleon and dogs. Currently I have three boxer dogs and two aquatic turtles. In addition to my "personal zoo" at home, my older sister worked at the Baltimore Zoo; therefore I practically lived there learning about animals. Even on family vacations, it was always a necessity to interact with animals; whether it was going on turtle watches when visiting Myrtle Beach in South Carolina or just searching for woodland creatures when we visited my grandmother's home in the south. Growing up around so many animals has made me a more compassionate and responsible person and has inspired me to continue to interact and learn about animals.

I am currently in an exciting work-study program called Aquarium on Wheels that offers hands on opportunities for interested Baltimore City high School Students like me, to learn valuable facts about the aquatic environment and its inhabitants. We meet three days of the week for two hours each to train, and on occasion we are given the opportunity to go on field trips to investigate aquatic life and its surroundings more intently. We're taught skills of caring for and handling different animals through instruction from highly qualified educators in the animal labs. Toward the middle of the year we are encouraged to focus on our more creative talents and produce an educational play that has a conservation message such as going green. Our entertaining and informative plays are performed for the general public at Enoch Pratt Free Library branches throughout the city.

Also, during the summer I am involved in a program called the Henry Hall program. The National Aquarium established the Henry Hall Endowment Fund to provide free educational opportunities for students who attend or are graduates of the Baltimore City Public School System. I participated my sophomore and junior years and plan on participating my senior year.

March 2, 2010

Dear Sir or Madame,

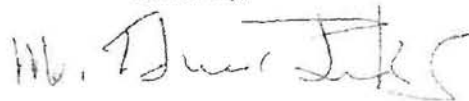
LaVonna is a positive thinking student who strives for excellence and demonstrates her commitment to education through strong academic accomplishment. In addition to LaVonna's successful participation in higher level, traditional academic classes, LaVonna also excels in a very demanding International Baccalaureate Visual Arts Program (IB). The IB curriculum's main focus is student driven research, exploration and documentation of processes. LaVonna does not settle for mediocrity and exhibits leadership quality when interacting in small and large group settings. As a student here at Baltimore City College, LaVonna's presence and contributions to the school environment reinforces her role as an asset to the school community. Outgoing, personable and success driven describes this student.

Along with LaVonna's demanding academic obligations, she has been involved in other school related activities including; Catwalk, whereby students participate in dance and theatrical productions, Student Ambassador dealing with public relations, and as a member of the National Honor Society, host for City College Alumni, Hall of Fame ceremonies, LaVonna also assists with annual Red Cross blood drives, and is an active participant with the Aquarium on Wheels Program, helping to educate children about the environment and caring for the Aquarium's animal population.

LaVonna's position within the top 5% of her class reflects her dedication and success as a student, and her work with people both inside and outside of the school community reflects her compassionate nature. These character traits are consistent with LaVonna's goal to study animal science, with a concentration on domestic, marine and wildlife.

I strongly recommend LaVonna Livingston for this scholarship; I know any funds LaVonna receives will be put to good use.

Sincerely,



Mr. Thomas Jenkins Baltimore City

College High School

MYP/IB Visual Arts Educator

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