

Austin Dow-Smith
Current: Milwaukee, WI Formerly: St. Agatha, ME
LD 787

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Austin Dow-Smith, and I am an MSSM alumnus from the class of 2012. I am writing to emphasize the profound impact that MSSM has on Maine's students.

MSSM sparked my interest in STEM through its summer camps in middle school and provided a rigorous academic environment from 2009 to 2012. The challenge of catching up with peers honed my problem-solving skills and instilled perseverance—tools that have been invaluable throughout my education and career.

Equally important, MSSM fostered a close-knit community where lasting friendships and support networks were built—benefits that extend into college and professional life. While studying Mechanical Engineering Technology at the University of Maine, I balanced a 20–40 hour work schedule and gained critical on-the-job experience at institutions like the Advanced Manufacturing Center and Foster Center for Student Innovation. This experience not only enhanced my career prospects but also allowed me to contribute to Maine's workforce. Without the academic rigor, and tools instilled me at MSSM, I surely would not have been able to manage working nearly full time and taking classes.

MSSM is essential for nurturing Maine's most ambitious students. I strongly support continued investment in MSSM, as its role in shaping the future of Maine's talent is undeniable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Austin Dow-Smith