I was fortunate enough to win the 2015 AAUW of Washington STEM Award (for technology). So

why do I advocate for the liberal arts? Because I am also a winner of the "*Poetry Out Loud"* contest and

"*Letters for Literature*." I take Honors English, I've performed over a dozen musicals, and *J'adore ètudier*

d'autre cultures. I acknowledge there is much to learn through science . . . but there is always more to

learn through the liberal arts.   Math and technology will fill my brain, but the social sciences will expand

my capacity. They provide me with a greater ability to think critically, dream diversely, and

communicate more passionately.   These virtues will aid me in any academic pursuit.   Simply put,

incorporating the liberal arts makes me a better version of myself.

We live in an age where science and technology have become increasingly prevalent. My future

career follows this path – I plan on going into medicine – but that is why I deeply need the liberal arts in

my life. I don't just want to understand the biological nature of my field; I need to also understand the

cultural relevance surrounding it.   Liberal arts provide me with a greater spiritual enrichment and a

broader recognition of morality and ethics. This comes through a perspective that science will never

unveil; one that constantly elicits questions, rather than seeks singular answers.   Humanities are the

equivalent of not just appreciating how life works, but better understanding why. It is "meaning over

mechanics," both microscopically and universally. To truly be a devoted scholar, we must always

incorporate both halves.

The idea of going into medicine with the sole view of a scientist scares me. And it should scare all of

us who are entering similar fields. The social complexities of our lives require a broader understanding

that goes beyond mere scientific principle; we need a more passionate enlightenment.   By example,

science may teach us how soundwaves and frequencies can be strung together, but art teaches us the

passion of music, and how different bodies of a work can emotionally change our entire physical and

mental state; not just by eliciting endorphins, but by giving us fulfillment.   Liberal arts soften the edges

around science and provide greater color to its spectrum.   This color needs to be fostered in today's educational society; life is too diverse for a singular scientific focal point. To think otherwise is an insult to both pursuits.

For many of us, science and technology will be our career. However, we shouldn't let ourselves follow that path with an isolated view.   We will learn our craft no matter what. The question then becomes whether we will also learn its purpose, its beauty, and its overall aesthetic place in our lives. Technology and humanities are not opposites; they are compliments.   One without the other will never achieve full potential. Life demands diversity; it may be dissected scientifically, but it must be lived robustly.   Liberal arts will enhance this ability in all of us.