



CAPT Brad Johansen Memorial Scholar

Eliana Durkee

Falls Church, VA

Sponsor: CAPT Bryan Durkee

College: Duke University

2022-2023: Sophomore

Major: Mechanical Engineer with Minor in Math

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Duke Club Field Hockey
- Focus Program Mentor
- Amikka Test Prep Tutor
- Duke Engineerig Student Government Social Chair
- University Tour Guide & Admissions Ambassador
- Freshman Orientation Leader



Receiving a Wings Over America scholarship means another year of learning and doing more than I previously thought possible. Last year I received a WOASF scholarship, which allowed me to work less and focus more on studying and exploring all that Duke makes available to me. Over the course of my freshman year, I learned how to code, generate 3D computer models, 3D prints, laser cut, cut metal with a water jet, use power tools, and create circuits. I am more capable in a design space than I ever thought I would be, and it has only made me fall more in love with engineering. My projects ranged from serious projects such as massive solar panel mounts and touchless sink timers to creative projects like McDonald's Happy Meal toy turtles and Mario Kart themed Rube Goldberg machines as tall as me. Being given another year of scholarship money means another year of discovering all I can do and stepping closer and closer to a degree and career in mechanical engineering. Growing up in the military, I always felt supported by the close-knit Naval community, being encouraged by family and friends in every corner of the world. It has been a privilege to know they are still supporting me throughout my collegiate journey both emotionally and financially.