

**Sharon Jeon**

Name: Sharon Jeon

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Grade: 11

I would be honored to be part of the Human Rights Commission, because I can bring a unique contribution to the ongoing discussions on equality and equity. Against my desire to treat everyone equally, I came to realize that all forms of discrimination and favoritism comes from bias, and that I am--like all of us--a biased person. Thus, I work every day to catch my bias and work against it. A few months ago, I received a National Honorable Mention in the 2017 C-Span StudentCam Documentary contest. The theme addressed the most urgent issue for Congress and the President. My answer? Implicit bias in schools. Through the process of making my documentary, I met professionals in areas of education and cultural proficiency and deepened my understanding of how important it is to be conscious of personal and societal bias. I then received the humbling invitation to share my documentary and experience at the Howard County Principal's meeting and I also had the great pleasure to be part of the StudentVoice panel at the 2017 Maryland Multicultural Conference, where I presented a workshop titled: Eradicating Implicit Bias to Improve Equity In Education. I spoke about the first step after realizing our biases is recognizing microaggressions and the damaging effects they have on people. Through the short span of one year, I was able to meet peers, teachers, parents, community, and leaders to have discussions on the importance of treating people as human beings. Despite differences in age, race, religion, sexual orientations, or social status, we are all human and deserve dignity and equity. As the Student Commissioner of the Howard County Human Rights Commission, I will further advocate the need to fulfill our duty, mission, and vision of the Human Rights Commission. I am grateful for your consideration.