Please tell us in 250 - 750 words how you could use your degree to contribute to the technology economy in Ashland, WI. Some examples include: starting a technology business, consulting local businesses, organizing remote work between national/international employers and local employees. Ideas will be judged based on practicality and impact, so please include as much detail as possible in describing how your idea would come to life and how it will help the community.

LOGAN HUTING: My family moved to Ashland when I was six years old. I remember being very nervous about my new school and making new friends. It didn't take me long to realize that Ashland is a wonderful community filled with wonderful people and unbelievable nature. My family and I quickly found out how much beauty there is in the area. Chequamegon Bay, Bayfield, Washburn, all of the parks and beaches in Ashland, nature trails in the middle of nowhere, you name it. My dad used to always say to me, "Son, we are looking at something right now that only about one percent of the world has seen, and we live here."

Since then I've grown and I'm now a senior getting ready to go into college. I've enjoyed working with all of my teachers and I have been an honor roll student every year. My family has been through some setbacks and I'm in need of some financial assistance in order to reach my goal of improving an already wonderful place like Ashland. I feel that I could definitely contribute to this community by obtaining a higher education. I know that I will probably have to live in a big city or two before I eventually come back home to Ashland. In the area, there are a number of thriving businesses; Memorial Medical Center, Bretting Manufacturing, and Deltco Plastics, to name a few. While I'm not completely sure of my career path yet, I do know that I have some interest in a computer science job or entering the medical field. Whether I decide to use my computer science degree to develop new software and introduce better computer systems to a place like Bretting Manufacturing or enter the medical field and research ways to improve communication in a hospital through technology, I plan to apply my skill set to my community.

Another idea I have is to bring a computer restoration business to Ashland. To be more specific, it could possibly be a subsidiary or extension of Quality Macs in San Diego, a company run and founded by my two cousins. They restore pre-owned Macs, iPhones, and other Apple products to perfect condition and sell them for significantly less than retail prices. Their products have Certified Pre-Owned status and they offer great warranties. I think this would work great on Main Street in Ashland. I could possibly have products shipped to my business from San Diego as a starting point and work my way to success in Ashland. I would also love to offer personal repairs for a lower price, as most repairs on Apple products can be very expensive when done at a mall or Apple store. My store could also potentially expand to and thrive in Duluth. By doing so, I could have products shipped to Ashland from the bigger store in Duluth to make the business run more smoothly. There's a great market for a business like this in the area, and it would be great to see it come to life.

I have loved growing up in Ashland. Through the ups and downs, I realized that my town is unique beyond belief. Technology is the future, and through working hard and pursuing a career in the tech field, I could have the opportunity to improve my hometown. Whether it's starting a new business or improving on already existing technology, I believe it is important to compliment the beautiful nature of the Ashland area with thriving technological advances.