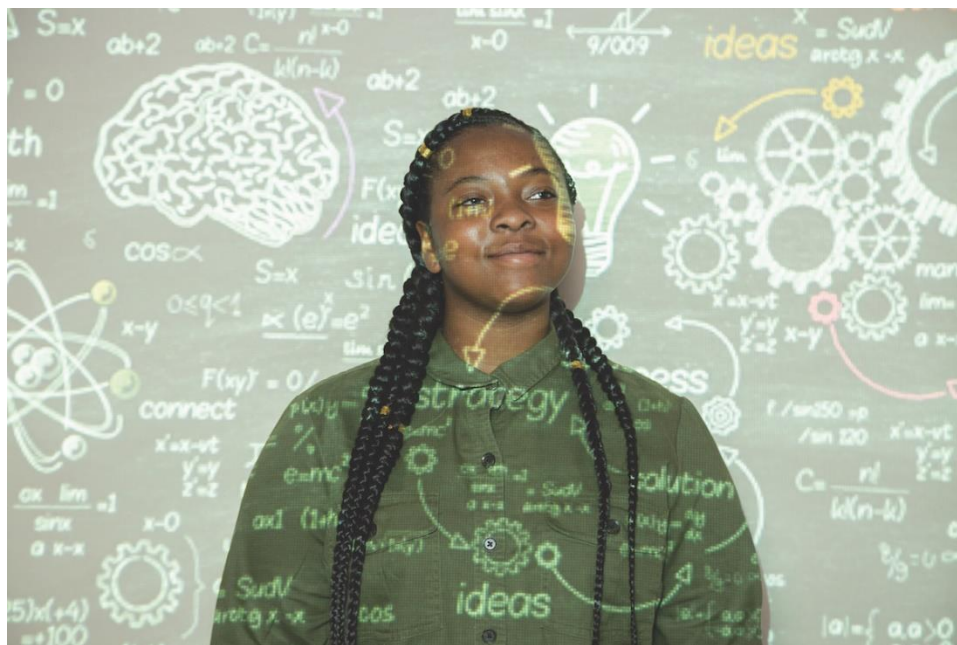


# The Rise of the Grand Challenges Scholars



By Daniel Druhora

Inspired by NAE's 14 Grand Challenges for Engineering, these future and current engineering leaders are challenging and changing the way people think about the world.

## Adrienne Walker

*10th Grade, Da Vinci Science High School, El Segundo, California*

**Mentored by USC Viterbi alums Avri Parker (B.S. '19) and Zixin Wang (B.S. '19)**

**Biggest accomplishment:** Completing my first year of high school. I say this because I was really nervous going in, not knowing if I would fit in with certain groups or if my teachers would like me.

**Grand challenge:** Advancing personalized learning. I think it's very important that each student approaches school by first exploring what type of learner they are. We could devise a system that observes how students engage and participate in class, and how they learn the Ayah League 12th Grade, Mayfair High School, Lakewood, California lesson. Based on the information gathered, we could customize education for students that have the same learning type.

**Heroes:** My parents and Alisha, a close family member. They have taught me not to give up and to always work hard because things are not always handed to me.

**Favorite science experiment as a child:** In physics class, my friend and I designed our own headphones using coiled wire and magnets. We soldered coiled wire and used two small plastic cups for the diaphragm to help get vibrations that helped produce sound.

**Favorite quote:** “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

**Bucket list:** Have a house(s) and a family of my own, become a doctor, travel to another country or state, try South American and Caribbean food, own a car.

**Favorite invention:** Computers, because they have algorithms.

**If you could put a message on a billboard, what would it say?** “If you want to stay alive, then save the planet.”

**Most significant teacher or mentor:** My ninth grade algebra teacher, the first teacher who got me to actually like math and not be scared to solve problems in front of the class, help me want to help my fellow classmates with math problems they don’t get, and help me show progress on my math tests in her class. She helped me change my negative mindset on math into a growth mindset.

**Wildest dream:** Develop an app that would help people all over the world. I made an app with a group of friends at a STEM camp that won first place, and some people wanted to make it into a real app. But it did not happen. If it did, that would be awesome.