

A Purdue Mechanical Engineer

I. Who I am today

I, Isaac Tipton, a student in Purdue's School of Mechanical Engineering, write to convey to the reader my passion for engineering. The purpose of this document is threefold in that I will communicate who I am today as a student and aspiring engineer; relate why my experiences make me unique and valuable value in a professional sense; and finally convey what I am aspiring toward in a professional context.

Currently as a sophomore working towards a Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering, my aim is to absorb, through diligent study and hard work, as much information as I can in order to build a firm foundation of knowledge in the core elements of mechanical engineering, namely: thermodynamics, statics, dynamics, and calculus.

These skills alone, however, are of little use professionally without the ability to work well in a team environment comprised of eclectic knowledge backgrounds working together toward a common goal. It is for this aspect of engineering that I am working toward a B.S.M.E.: to develop a broad background in engineering studies so as to provide flexibility and prove to be a valuable resource to a team on which I may be a part.

II. Why I am valuable

a) *Purdue Mechanical Engineering student*

As a student in Purdue's School of Mechanical Engineering I am earning one of the nation's best educations in engineering. In 2009 *US News and World Report* ranked Purdue's engineering program as tenth in the United States (colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com). As a sophomore I am now in, or have completed, the majority of the most fundamental courses with a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.68 as of the most recent semester. Practically, this equates to a firm understanding of the engineering fundamentals.

b) *Team design experience*

For two years in high school I led a design team competing Rose Hulman University's High School Design Competition. The goal was to develop a detailed model of an idea for a new product and was evaluated under the criteria of technological feasibility, cost effectiveness, social benefit, and others. My teams worked together developing ideas for new inventions that would theoretically both improve quality of life of the user as well as be affordable to the general public.

In the fall of 2006 I had an idea for a digital video storage device similar to the iPod by Apple that would allow customers to purchase and store large video libraries without needing to keep a physical, e.g. a DVD. After developing a model for how it would work with respect to the evaluation criteria and submitting the idea to Rose Hulman, we were awarded third place in the competition for the idea; less than one month later I heard the announcement of Apple Computer's new product: Apple TV. In essence what we developed was an idea nearly identical to a product deemed marketable by a global leader in technology and innovation: Apple Computer Inc.

c) *Public relations and communication experience*

In the summer of 2007 two men and I undertook the challenge of riding bicycles from Seattle Washington to Chicago Illinois in an effort to raise funds for *Agape Royal Ministries*, an organization based in Southern India involved in starting orphanages throughout the Indian nation. I was given the responsibility overseeing the fund-raising and creating awareness of the cause in our local community. My responsibilities involved working with *Agape Royal Ministries* concerning donations, arranging for news interviews, and securing dozens of pledges from both private individuals and public corporations. The five-week, 2,200-mile trek across mountain, rain forests, deserts, and forests culminated in seeing donated in excess of \$30,000 toward the plight of orphans.

III. Where I want to go

a) *Short term: education*

The continuing of my education through both classroom and extracurricular experiences is my highest priority in the immediate future. My goal is to earn my B.S.M.E. diploma in the summer of 2012. I resolve to have upon graduation a well-rounded background in technical knowledge as well as teamwork and management abilities. I will do this by pursuing Purdue's Entrepreneur Certificate in addition to my degree in engineering with the intention of perusing a career in a managerial position. In addition to this my aim is to attain one semester's worth of experience abroad in an area such as Singapore or Mumbai so as to hone a global perspective in my professional outlook. Finally, I intend to go to graduate school to pursue a Master's degree in Business Administration.

b) *Long term: career*

Ultimately my ambition is to use the problem-solving skills I am learning today through studying engineering coupled with the administrative skills I will develop in graduate school to pursue a life-long goal career managing a collaboration of businesses with the vision of seeing my work grow to the national and even international platform by providing for people an array of basic services such as building, consulting, and technical maintenance as the standard for ethical conduct, fair treatment, integrity, and excellence. Doing this will work to drive the economic engine both in this country and the world to improve standards of living, infrastructural establishment, and wealth to as many individuals as can be employed or served.

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