

## Global Engineering Profile

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**Background** - Ever since I was a child math had always been fun and easy. It came to me so naturally. I had my first taste of being an engineer, in 5<sup>th</sup> grade when I volunteered to design the toothpick bridge for the grade wide competition. My design led our group to victory by supporting the most weight by a considerable amount. Since then, I have been fascinated with design, solving problems, and seeing the final project develop before my eyes. Followed by many exciting experiences and opportunities I have made my way to the School of Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University. I am involved in many groups including GEARE, Society of Hispanic Engineers, Minority Engineering Program, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and a professional Honors Fraternity (ALDPES).

In choosing a college I wanted to find somewhere that would allow me to become the best engineer I could be, by allowing freedom to explore the field as well as a world class program to educate me. I am proud to tell people my school and major. I love the prestige that trails the title "Purdue Engineer," and how the name carries so much weight. Recently I worked for General Motors in a Technical Center as a summer intern, where I worked directly with professional engineers. Upon arrival I was immediately reassured of my decision to become an engineer. I began working on projects that held weight and made a difference. To see how engineers in the field operated and attacked problems made me strive to develop a thought process like theirs. This drive and hands on experience has propelled me to continue my path of engineering with a new passion and tenacity.

**Experience and Credentials** - I am currently en route to become a Mechanical Engineer but am still unsure as to what my focus will be. I am a part of the GEARE Mexico program which will allow me to work as and intern for two summers, once in the United States and once in Spanish-speaking country, as well as a semester of study abroad at Monterey Technical Institute in Mexico. I plan to travel while I am there to really soak in the experience. I believe it will be a great time to see things from a different perspective. I have tried very hard to diversify and broaden myself whenever possible. I plan on taking a wide range of classes in the field of Mechanical Engineering, and determining what I am interested in and what I wish to pursue. Also, in doing this I will have a background in a wide range of areas, which will prepare me better for the wide range of problems I will face as a professional engineer.

The first practical experience in engineering was my involvement in EPICS (Engineering Projects In Community Service). As a freshman, I led a team of engineers on a semester long project. We were to design a weather station for a preschool on campus. As a team we experienced most of the phases of tackling a problem as an engineer head on, primarily dealing with failing prototypes. Overall it taught me how to interact in an engineering team, an even more I learned about the engineering process. As an intern this summer I learned that specificity was good but variety better because it was more practical. We never reached a problem that dealt with one field of engineering, but often found ourselves in situation where Electrical, Mechanical, Civil and Industrial weaved themselves into a perfect mess. To add more chaos to the mix we were working with engineers in China for a project that would be implemented in

close to 10 different countries. Thus, I believe being better-rounded will better equip me for the challenges to come. I am very interested in becoming a very well-rounded person not only academically but also personally. I value broadening my social and personal skills as well. I am a leader for high school students through a group called 'Young Life.' I have been involved for about 5 years, originally as a student participating, but now I am part of the leadership team. I am a role model for younger kids as well as a mentor for their introspection. An engineer can have great ideas and extensive knowledge on a subject, but if he cannot convey those ideas or interact in a group, what value does he have to the team? At the same time an engineer spends all of his time working and does not entertain a social life, his ideas will not be very diverse and will likely remain stagnant in form, which leads me to the notion of finding a healthy balance between the professional and social aspects of life.

**Vision/Goals** - As I progress through the field of engineering I plan to take my experiences from Purdue, internships and Mexico, and intertwine them into a very successful engineer. I define success as making great strides toward accomplishing my goals. My number one goal is to be happy and to do what I love. If I am interested in my projects and genuinely enjoy working on them, it will be a win-win situation. I will be happy with the work that I am doing and produce better work, which will in turn benefit those around me, being first my co-workers, then the company, and finally the consumer on the receiving end. Growing up in a wealthy country with endless opportunity has been fantastic, but the need to help those less fortunate has been ever growing on me. I have traveled to a number of countries and my eyes have been opened to reality of the world that we live in, which is why I value helping them with all I have to offer. My high school math teacher always used to say, "Life consists not in holding good cards but in playing those you hold well." With the vast amounts of technology and intuition that we have, I think that it is ludicrous that some countries don't even have clean drinking water. And while I don't think that I can solve the world's water problem on my own, I would gladly work diligently to raise the standard of living for other countries. I want to position myself so that I can be in the best position to significantly contribute to this crisis. Ideally I would like to combine my passion for my work with my passion to make a difference, and I will strive to make that happen.