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### Cumulative Education Reflection

Before coming to Iowa State, I knew that my biggest challenge would be person to person communication and learning to work with a team. Both challenges were critical to overcome if I wanted to graduate and become an engineer. In the real world I would need to be a good communicator to even get a job, let alone function within one. From the beginning of Freshman year, many of my classes eased me into these areas of concern and even helped me obtain a crucial internship in my Junior year. In the past few years, I have been able to work through my uncomfortableness with communication as well as improve my team-based development.

In high school I had worked on school projects in groups, but I rarely had gotten the opportunity to problem solve through challenging tasks. Starting early on during my freshman year, I was able to start problem solving more complex topics such as calculus. While many people like to ask the question “when will we every use this?”, I was able to find my answer during this time. Regardless if I will ever use the lectured topic again, it was preparing me for the problem solving that would come in the following years. By the third semester of calculus I was able to drastically improve my problem-solving skills. These skills would later come in handy when starting to develop solutions to and troubleshoot software algorithms, computer architecture, and more problems specific to Computer Engineering.

When I first came to Iowa State, I didn’t have very much confidence when speaking with professors, recruiters, and even classmates. The first classes taught as apart of my learning community really helped me start strong. These classes allowed me to find classmates who were similar to me

which gave me a chance to improve my people skills. Additionally, in the career fair prep, I was able to become more comfortable speaking with professionals and finding out how best to market myself as an Engineer. By the end of my junior year I started to feel good about my ability to speak with others.

Near the end of my junior year, I got the opportunity to accept my first ever internship with Kiewit working as an API Developer Intern in their Kiewit Technology Group. I would be working in a small team of just me and another intern but would have the resources of the Architecture team to help me. It was thanks to the experience I had gained in person to person communication that enabled me to get this position. Furthermore, while working at Kiewit I was able to gain an understanding of how a real agile team works and apply everything I had learned in the past few years. Overall, it was an amazing experience and am incredibly grateful I had the opportunity to learn all I could.

Iowa State University has been a great place to learn how to become a computer engineer. Here I have learned a lot about the specific major as well as life skills and technical skills. I believe there is a lot offered to the students here to help them be as successful as possible. Since coming to Iowa State, I have been able to take advantage of many opportunities ranging from improving my person to person speaking as well as developing my ability to problem solve.