

Sierra Palmer

In the 1960s, my grandfather was a PhD researcher from Iowa State and had the opportunity to travel and study abroad. He traveled to India and used to tell me stories about his experiences with the people and culture. Those memories hold such an important part in my family's history, and I want to be able to personally share in that. If given the opportunity to travel to Mandi, I hope to learn about Eastern culture by fully immersing myself in it. Another key reason I would like to travel to Mandi is due to how far outside of my comfort zone I would be. I have always lived by the idea that you do not learn the important lessons until you are pushed beyond what you find normal, and India would give me that exact opportunity. I strive to see how other cultures live and develop a greater appreciation and understanding of my own lifestyle and how it differs from others. I feel this opportunity would also be a lesson in tolerance and patience. Being a woman traveling to India, I would not always be seen as equal to my male counterparts. It would be difficult, but it is a lesson that would be very beneficial to a future female engineer. Lastly, I hope to see and understand how small actions can make big waves. I want to be able to make someone else's life that much easier by something that my team worked on.