In order to be successful in life and as an engineer either in academia or in industry. There are much more than just technical skills that are needed. One needs to be an effective verbal, nonverbal and written communicator, culturally competent, and a leader. This are all skills that I have learned from my general education course over my time at Iowa State. These courses include:  AFAM 201: Intro to African American Studies, C! 204: Social Foundation of Education, LDST 360: Cultural Competency and Global Leadership and LAS 151/52: Dean's Leadership studies.  I have also found that I have been able to take what I have learned in these courses and apply them back to my engineering courses and activities. Such as, when I teach in the lab as a electrical engineering undergraduate teaching assistant I use skills from my CI 204 class, and when I teach technical skills to my teammates during hackathon competitions.

I define leadership as actions or skills that move an organization or group closer to its goals. Leadership is an important quality to have as an engineer because regardless of technical ability individuals with poor attitudes ruin the atmosphere in an organization and cause a decrease in over-all productivity, leaders can inspire others in an organization to do their best and improve the atmosphere. My leadership 360: Cultural Competency and Global Leadership and LAS 151/152 : Dean's Leadership Seminar helped me develop both my leadership skills and my definition of leadership. One of the assignments in LAS: 151/152 was to interview a leader who I admire. This required me to sit back and evaluate what I look for and value in a leader. I have determined these qualities to be inquisitiveness, initiative, and open-mindedness. As an engineer, I want to exemplify these qualities and develop close relationship with people whom I recognize these qualities in. This will allow me to do the most good.

My AF AM 201: Intro to African American Studies, and LDST 360: Cultural Competency and Global Leadership, classes focused on not only developing an appreciation for

cultures I am not familiar with but building relationships and empathizing more with people of other cultures and using cultural difference to enhance relationships. For each of these classes I had to research a country. For my LDST 360 class I had to interview people of different cultures. Many electrical engineers have cultures that are different from mine, I chose two of them, Dr. Viswani and Dr. Mina to interview. These classes enabled me to realize how much of people is lost when I only focus on the technical side of engineering and how to bring out the more human side of engineering.

Education is very important to engineering as technology changes and technological advances are always being made in my field. Taking CI 204: Social Foundation of Education in the United States, has taught me about different learning styles and how to be a more effective student and teacher. Engineering is a very team based and project-oriented field. In teams one is always learning from other team members and teaching one's skills to other team members. As an engineering Co-op I interacted with many subject matter experts (SMEs) and hope to become one my self one day. It is important to realize the value in valuing someone else's education and taking the time to teach them skills so that they can be independent and not rely on a SME to consistently either assist or do the task for them. From C! 207 I learned how even well intended actions can be condensing to people of certain backgrounds especially in an educational setting. In order to teach people skills, I first need to invest and take the time to know and respect who they are as a person and their experiences and background. I also need to beware of any cultural issues that could exist in my field and company this means taking the time to read literature including company media and IEEE articles to keep in-touch and aware of what is going on industry and research advances

During my experience at Iowa State I have gained abundance of technical skills and non-technical skills through my general education classes. Communication, leadership, adaptability, mentoring, and cultural competency are just some of the skills and qualities my general education classes have grown in me. These non-technical skills I have been able to apply in my technical courses much as senior design where I work and help lead a diverse team of electrical and software engineering majors.