

General Education Reflection

Iowa State has given me a great opportunity to expand my learning outside the realm of computer engineering by offering valuable general education courses. Some people see these courses as a time waster, but I see them as an opportunity to enhance my education. I think it's important as an engineer to spend quality time learning about concepts, issues, cultures, perspectives, etc. that are outside of the engineering field. This allows us to have a broader perspective, resulting in more powerful decision making. In general education courses, we can learn how to better communicate with people outside of our technical field. This is important, because it is likely that an engineer work on a product whose main consumer is a non-technical person. The communication courses have also improved my ability to communicate within a team. This is very valuable, as engineers (almost) always work on a team.

As briefly mentioned above, general education courses have taught me how to think from a different perspective. As an engineer, it is important to take into account the ramifications of a decision on many different contexts, such as economy, globe, or society. Taking various general education courses at Iowa State has given me the opportunity to better understand how the economy works, has given a more global worldview, and has helped me better understand the different societies in the world. It is important to understand how our decisions affect these different contexts.

I have many goals as a professional and as a person. Most of all, I want to be a family man. I want to love my wife and my kids and I want them to know that. I will never let my work or profession get in the way of my family. They have my attention, and my goal is that they

would always know that. On a professional level, I want to work on a product with friends that will benefit the world around me. I don't want my co-workers to be merely co-workers. I want to connect with them, build relationship with them, and be able to call them friends. I want to work with engineers in an environment that promotes three C's: collaboration, creativity, and contribution. As an engineer, I will do my best to promote this culture in every place I work. I want all of my teammates to feel like there is a sense of "we are accomplishing this together." I want my teammates to feel that they can ask any question or admit they don't know something and then get built up instead of embarrassed. I want them to feel like they can think freely and come up with their own ideas for projects, new features, or system optimizations that could improve our product. I want my co-workers to come up with their own creative solution. I don't their solution to be what I thought of. I want them to take ownership of their part of the project and to do it creatively with excellence. Lastly, I want all of my colleagues to know that they are contributing, and that their contribution matters. I want to recognize them and praise them for what they do well – and to encourage them and strengthen them in their weakness.