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**Speaker 1** [00:00:00] We are recording. Okay. Welcome. Thank you so much for being here today, Danielle, to give us your story and tell us about your experience. And I will just go ahead and read the prompt and then I will let you take it away with their what you had to say for us today. So the prompt was tell the story of your experience so far as an engineering student. You may want to start with your background. What brought you to pursue the program? And you may want to include your initial impression of the program, how you begin to understand how the program fits into your life or doesn't how you fit into the program or how you don't. And most important characteristics of the program for you or what impact you hope it will have on your life or community. And then I can read additional prompts as needed as we as we continue. But please, thank you for being here and you can take their.

**Speaker 2** [00:01:12] Thank you very much. So my name is Daniel. You're in that area from a West African country known as Ghana. I get Oregon State. This is my first year. I'm finishing up my first term. I am a graduate student. I'm pursuing my Ph.D. here at Oregon State and Microwave Engineering in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Well, brought me here to Oregon State was primarily I. I did my undergrad in Brigham Young University in Utah, and I did so many different engineering projects, which I found very fascinating, including research. And towards the end of my undergrad, I wrote a research paper for publication and I performed various research articles and research experiments, and I thought it would be a very good skill to do to pursue a graduate degree, to be able to help me just enhance my skill, to be like a good like design, a good engineer, very, very thoughtful, very, very analytical and be able to contribute greatly in the world. And I was looking at different options. And Oregon State stood out very closely to me. One, it was just when I was like research, and it had like a good close community that I really enjoyed. And that's something that links for. It's like an opportunity and like to man and like teachers and advisors who will help you land. Certainly that and also like push my decision to come here. What's my advice? Doctor Walla He was very, very instrumental in helping me understand. And even before I go into Oregon State, he went to help me just was, like I said, even like a teacher and like advisor even before I got, you know, just helping me through everything and has continued since I've been here. And so in the whole scheme of thing, I feel like I feel well here in Oregon State, I feel like I have my place here, I feel like I have, I have. And I'm trying to contribute a lot to board the research that I do here, meeting people in class and also meeting people outside of class. In terms of my whole life aspiration. My dream is to become a design engineer. And since I have come here, the first thing I've been doing has been design. Ever since my very friendly design and different antennas and simulation and comparing with different results. And that's exactly why I have needed and I have wanted. And I feel I feel very confident the skills that I am gained and will be able to translate. To. Translate to my professional career. Thank you.

**Speaker 1** [00:05:44] Thank you so much, Daniel. Yep. I had another little follow on question in the chat there.

**Speaker 2** [00:05:51] Okay. So a student from Ghana. I think the cultural experience is one. I am able to bring unique experiences from Ghana here to Oregon State. I have met so many people from all over the world, including people from here in the United States who do not have an experience with Ghana. And so I'm able to share them perspectives about how Ghana was organized, like what the people are like. And I have always felt a sense of some sense of responsibility. I feel like I'm a representative of Ghana. And so it just kind of like puts me put a little bit of an emphasis on me to just put out my best foot forward to the. And those who interact with me will have a good understanding of Ghana. And I think one question like people are like, oh, well, would you choose to come to have an education here rather than pursue an education in Ghana? And I think that's a very fair question because I think there are very good things in Ghana education wise, and that's where I had my first foundation of medication, and that's held me so much for my life. The thing that I think are against it in the U.S. in general office is the ability to just be able to do more consistent research and be able to have more of the tools and resources and to be able to expand your knowledge. And I think that that's a gift. Unfortunately, like, it's not as widespread in Ghana. And and I just feel very blessed and had the opportunity to be here to also experience expanding my knowledge and my skills to to the to the world. Q. The next question. Okay, so my guess values and belief system is first and foremost, I am a Christian and I believe in God and Jesus, and so does kind of me. For me, it's very important because I feel like my Christian values has guided me in like always being like edicao and always doing like things for a good purpose and just not doing things. Just to do things, but to do things. Or my bigger purpose to make good impact with society and the world around. Not only does I think my Ghanian culture also has also helped me because in Ghana, family and community, it's a big part of society. And so Ghanaian culture, like I always am, always thinking of ideas as an engineer of ways I can contribute back to Ghana because it's just part of who we are. It's we have to like figure out ways that we can serve in our society. And I have met with various other Ghanaians and we are coming, come, come up with different ideas and projects of how we can contribute back to Ghana and make things better for those who are back home. And so those kind of Christian and Ghanaian culture for me is like the biggest blend of who I, I. Student and engineer. Okay. So for me. My biggest strength is a young very. I felt like my biggest strength that I'm very, very hard working in the sense that I, I have the ability to work hard and try to do attacks and try to finish the attacks. The engineering required I request required. Another skill and strength that I have is I am very analytical. And soon, any time I see I have an engineering problem, I try to contain their theories and their subjects with either like simulation so my different skills so that not only can I prove to myself that they're the problem or current I'm trying to solve can be solved with my simulations, but I can prove to myself that it can't be done in multiple ways. So I think like those are my biggest trends that bring very analytical and very dedicated and hard working. I am not a first generation student. My parents have college degrees and for me they have been very helpful because for me, my parents have always first pushed us to get the best education that we can get. Yeah. In terms of race. Know, obviously it's it's very easy to see now a lot of African origin students. Yeah. Oregon State which which is fine and have learned from people of so many different races and ages. And I feel like most people in Oregon State have helped me feel included and just value my opinions. And I will say that they respect me as an African and as a black person. And I have the ability and my race has been able to help me like share my perspective and also lend perspectives of different people. I think from my experience and from other places I've been in, thinking back to my friends of people. Similarly to me, the biggest diff, the biggest difficulty for underserved minority communities is a lot of them just don't have access to a good education either. Like through that, it's very expensive. They just can't seem to get into like good educational programs. And so I just feel like whatever opportunity the educational institution can do to like, put some together an emphasis on people from underserved communities, because I know a lot of them who are willing to take advantage of the opportunities given to them by their education up their educational institutions, but they just have a hard time accessing US opportunities just because either they are not from backgrounds that that just pushed or they just can't afford this kind of opportunity. The this the rest of my thoughts on the subject.

**Speaker 1** [00:15:38] Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts. Daniel, is there anything else you didn't get to mention yet that you would want to that you thought about and would want to include about your experience in your story?

**Speaker 2** [00:15:53] You know, I think I think there were two.

**Speaker 1** [00:15:58] Okay, great. Thank you so much for being willing to share.