

Cumulative Reflection Maxwell Talley

Iowa State has prepared me to go into the engineering world and solve problems through classes in numerous different areas of software. I've taken classes in embedded systems, web development, operating systems, and others. Through these classes in different areas of the field, I've been able to gain a wide array of knowledge. With this, I'll be able to solve problems in a number of different areas. I've also learned to teach myself while at Iowa State. This will be extremely useful, as technology is a very fast moving industry. If I can't teach myself, I won't survive long. Luckily, there are endless online resources I've learned to use to teach myself. Some of the best include Stack Overflow, Medium, and GitHub Pages.

I've also been lucky to have been able to travel a lot, some of that during my semester abroad in New Zealand. Through this experience, I was able to meet many people from backgrounds I'd never experienced before. I explored cities with strangers from hostels. Flew to Australia with friends I'd met only a month ago. Meeting new people helped me gain a new perspective, allowing me to understand and work better with others. These experiences have helped me work in groups, recognize issues, and recognize my responsibility to the rest of the world, not just to myself or my company. The world is a big place, much bigger than most realize. Keeping a small world mindset allows you to behave in a certain way, only worrying about those within your tight circle. When you realize that we are a global community and not just a nation, state, or university, you realize that you have a larger responsibility.

Going back, I don't think I would change anything. Maybe try a little harder in a couple classes, but for the most part, I'd keep things the same. I'm very happy with where I'm at today. I have great friends, a fairly good GPA, and a job I never thought I could attain. If I went back and changed anything, I might not be the same person. I've definitely made mistakes, but I've been able to learn from them and improve my situation because of it. All in all, I think my time at Iowa State has been worthwhile. Are there things I wish Iowa State would have done better? Of course. But with that, just like everything else, I've been able to learn and enhance my perspective.