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I have enjoyed my general education classes here at Iowa State quite a bit and I feel as though they've made me a more well-rounded, creative person. Most of my general education classes had to do with music since that is something I'm passionate about, although I also did take one on leadership. These classes helped me understand the "why" portion of creating a project. It's easy to focus on the projects we make in school and the languages we use for the sake of creating them, not for the finished project and doing creative classes in another context gave me ideas of things that I want to create because I wanted them around rather. My leadership class helped me understand the process of creation from a social context, especially in terms of understanding how to get people that aren't engineers involved in my creative process for the good of others. Overall, these classes helped me think about engineering as a group of people coming together for a goal rather than a project that needs to be done on time.

The first class that I feel had a profound impact on my engineering degree is Music 246, which was an introduction to music creation on a digital workstation. There were a lot of open projects for this class that involved creativity, since most of the projects revolved around taking audio clips that were given to us and modifying them to create part of a song. Both engineering problems I deal with in class and projects in this class were about taking something that's given to us and making something bigger out of it, and I think expressing my creativity in a setting like this made me more eager to be creative in my own engineering projects. For example: I started a project that you can see on my website that has to do with changing the colors of light bulbs to match the colors of a piece of album art on Spotify, another musical project. The class inspired me to create something that I wanted to a part of myself into not just for the engineering portion, but also to make something that other people could enjoy.

Leadership Studies 322: Leadership Styles and Strategies in a Diverse Society was an important class for me that made me think of the leadership and creation process from a larger perspective. The class inspired me to go outside of my comfort zone and get involved as a student leader in the Bernie 2020 campaign, where I learned a lot about working with bureaucracy and event planning. I also learned about how a handful of people can make a very large impact on society. I helped plan and reserved a room for a pizza party before the caucus, and it wasn't long before I was getting messages and seeing posts online inviting people, including myself, to an event that I had a large part in making happen. Most coding projects we do in class have been done dozens of times by other students and being involved in something like this helped me gain an understanding of just how much the projects I will be working on after school will affect real people. The lack of voter turnout is a big problem with people my age, but we turned out double as many people as the next candidate in my precinct, which is something I am proud that I was part of.

Music 304 is another one of my general education classes that I enjoyed. It didn't affect me as much as some of my other classes, but it did give me a better understanding and appreciation for music in the United States. Understanding why things are the way they are and how music progressed to the point that it's at today was interesting for me and got me curious about that in the context of engineering. We do learn a bit about the history of computing in

class, but it would be cool to have a deeper understanding so that I can appreciate the cultural value behind older engineering technologies.

There is a lot of value for me in general education courses, and I really enjoyed my time in them and I feel that they made me more aware of society as well as creative ways I can approach engineering. I have a better grasp on the bigger picture that comes with engineering and its impact on others, something that I feel can get lost in technical classes.