DATE: **April 15, 2021**

TO: **Dr. Deirdre Hunter**

FROM: **Sindhuja Darisipudi**

SUBJECT: **Self-Reflection**

**SM11**

At the beginning of the semester, I knew that service and creation were the two threads that had weaved me into who I was at this point, and I hope that this class would allow me to understand if engineering was the right way to pursue that intersection in my career. Coming into the semester, I had very limited exposure to engineering through my experiences in high school robotics. I was not sure that if those experiences were an accurate representation of what it is like to be an engineer in industry, and hoped that this class would provide better clarity into that. I planned on studying Electrical Engineering with a minor in Global Health Technologies. My time in the class has solidified my choice and swayed me away from other career paths I was considering, such as pursue a more traditional career in software engineering. While I knew that my interests laid stronger in engineering, talking to others about job security and options made me consider if it was worth sacrificing my interests for job security and perks.

This class has allowed me to gain a better understanding of the engineering design process in a more structured and professional manner, and has reinforced my interest in engineering. I’ve realized that I would rather pursue a career in engineering that is more fulfilling to me than pursue a more comfortable route.

As I’ve worked through this class, the frustrations and challenges were so much easier to overcome knowing that I was creating a physical product that would impact real lives. I don’t envision that I could feel that same impact in the other careers that I was considering. Furthermore, as I work through the engineering design process, I’m constantly enamored with the beauty of creation and design. As someone who is really passionate about the visual arts, engineering allows me to apply my interest in creation and design into my career. This class has made me realize that I find the process of building and designing something from the ground up in engineering to be self rewarding in a way that no other career path that I am considering would be.

This class has also allowed me to build skills that are important for success as an engineer, most notably communication skills. While it is easier to pick up and develop hard skills on the job, communication skills require a lot of practice and time to strengthen and develop. This class has allowed me to strengthen my skills in technical writing and has taught me how to communicate clearly with my group members, client, faculty mentors, etc., depending on their level of involvement with the project.

To me, being an engineer is just iteratively creating and designing to solve problems, and anyone who does that is an engineer. In that manner, even if I switch from a career in engineering, I think that I will likely always be an engineer or follow engineering principles no matter where I am in my career.