

Welcome, Sayid!

Your Onboarding Package

Prepared by Mansour
January 31, 2026

Strategy Call Summary

Your Current Situation

School:
St. Ambrose University, Davenport

Expected Graduation:
May 2028

Started:
May 2025 (after freshman year)

Major:
B.S. Mechanical & Industrial Engineering (Sophomore)

Current Role:
Part-Time Student Quality Engineer, John Deere Seating
(Moline)

Goal:
Product Development Software Engineer → EDP

Why You're Ahead of 95% of Students

Most people who come to me for career coaching are **already in trouble**—6 months from graduation with no plan, 50+ applications with no callbacks, or stuck in a job they hate.

You're doing this **proactively**. As a sophomore. With a part-time student role already at John Deere.

That means:

- ✓ You have **2+ years to strategically build experience** before entering the EDP
- ✓ You can **choose which college projects to highlight** with interviews in mind
- ✓ You can **diversify your part-time student roles** to build a broader skill base
- ✓ You're already building **factory floor experience**—which "connects all the dots" for understanding how products actually get built

This is exactly the kind of proactive planning that separates people who get promoted quickly from those who get stuck.

What's Already Working For You

✓ Part-Time Student Role at Deere

Already working as a Quality Engineer supporting weld and paint operations—real manufacturing experience that most students don't have

✓ Factory Floor Experience

Understanding how physical products get built and the limitations of manufacturing—inaluable context for product development

✓ Supportive Team Environment

You mentioned having a good team and learning environment—this is a great foundation for growth

✓ Clear Career Direction

You know you want Product Development → EDP. Having specific targets makes everything more focused

✓ Already Taking Initiative

Planning to job shadow software development and PV&V teams during summer shutdown—this is exactly the right move

✓ Previous Administrative Experience

City of Moline internship before Deere—shows work ethic and ability to operate in professional environments

✓ Year-Round Availability

Staying as part-time student year-round until graduation—maximum exposure and experience accumulation

✓ Local Network

Went to high school in Moline—local connections and familiarity with the Quad Cities Deere ecosystem

Key Insights From Our Call

Factory Experience is Gold

Your quality engineering role at the factory level is **more valuable than you might realize**. It "connects all the dots" for understanding how physical products get built, what the factory limitations are, and why certain design decisions matter.

Many product development engineers never get this perspective—they design things that can't actually be manufactured efficiently. You'll have that context built in.

Diversify Your Part-Time Student Roles

Since you'll be at Deere for 2+ more years, **strategically rotate through different roles**. Even short stints in different areas build a broader skill base and give you more stories to tell in interviews.

Consider: Software Development, PV&V (validation), Product Engineering, Test Engineering. Each one adds a different dimension to your experience.

Focus on Broad Technical Skills

For skills, focus on **broadly applicable tools** that John Deere uses heavily:

- **C++** — Used extensively in embedded systems and product software
- **MATLAB** — Standard for simulation and algorithm development
- **Python** — Increasingly used for automation and data analysis

Don't chase niche tools unless you're certain about a specific path. Broad skills give you flexibility.

Build Your Job Posting Database NOW

Start **screenshotting and saving job postings** for roles you aspire to. This lets you:

- Track which skills appear most frequently
- Identify gaps you can fill before graduation
- Assess your progress over time
- Have language ready for resumes and interviews

Your Career Trajectory at Deere

Typical Timeline (Based on Our Discussion)

Now - May 2028

Part-Time Student (Current)

Build diverse experience, rotate through roles, develop technical skills

2028-2030

EDP (Grade 6) — 18-24 months

Entry-level full-time rotational program

2030-2032

Grade 7 Engineer — 2-4 years

Individual contributor with increasing ownership

2032+

Grade 8 (Supervisor or Senior IC)

Leadership track or deep technical specialist

⚡ How to Accelerate This

While being a good engineer is essential, **non-technical skills are what drive rapid promotion**:

- **Build your personal brand** — Be known for something specific
- **Seek high-visibility projects** — Work that managers notice and talk about
- **Get your name mentioned** — Ensure leaders credit your contributions
- **Master communication** — Present well, write clearly, influence effectively

These "soft skills" are actually the HARD skills for engineers. Most never develop them.

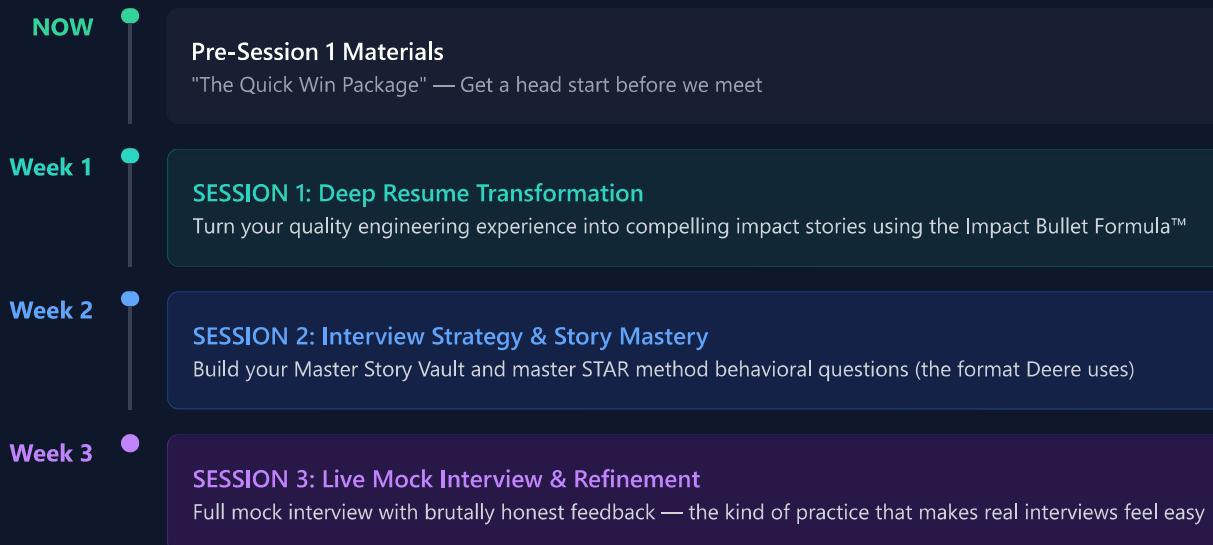
The Plan Moving Forward

The 21-Day Career Launch Blueprint

3 × 90-minute 1-on-1 sessions over ~3 weeks

Each session includes **live resume building, story development, and mock practice** tailored for your product development and EDP goals.

Session Timeline



What You'll Walk Away With

- ✓ A fully transformed, ATS-optimized resume highlighting your Deere experience
- ✓ A Master Story Vault with polished STAR stories from your experience
- ✓ Full mock interview experience with detailed feedback
- ✓ Job posting database template to track desired roles and skills
- ✓ A modular bullet library for quick tailoring to product development roles
- ✓ Interview Cheat Sheet for quick reference during real interviews
- ✓ Strategic plan for rotating through part-time student roles
- ✓ Lifetime access to the Skool community for ongoing support and networking

Pre-Session 1 Materials

"The Quick Win Package" — Start getting value BEFORE our first call



1. The Job Posting Database Template

Track desired roles and required skills

What it is: A system for saving, organizing, and analyzing job postings for roles you aspire to. Track which skills appear most frequently so you know what to develop.

Why it matters for you: With 2+ years until graduation, you can strategically fill skill gaps before you even need to apply.

 Attached separately



2. The Internal Mobility Playbook™

Navigate role changes within Deere

What it is: A guide to requesting role rotations, job shadowing, and positioning yourself for the internal opportunities you want (like that PD software role).

Why it matters for you: You're already planning to job shadow during summer shutdown. This helps you maximize that opportunity and turn it into a real rotation.

 Attached separately



3. The Asset Mindset Shift™

See your factory experience as the advantage it is

What it is: A mindset prep guide that reframes your quality engineering work, factory floor experience, and school projects as valuable "assets" for interviews.

Why it matters for you: Your factory experience is gold—but only if you know how to talk about it. This prepares you to articulate that value.

Attached separately



4. The Deere Career Map™

Understand the path from PTS to Senior IC/Supervisor

What it is: A visual breakdown of the typical Deere engineering career progression: Grade levels, timelines, what it takes to accelerate, and common pitfalls.

Why it matters for you: Knowing the game makes it easier to play. You'll understand exactly what you're working toward.

Attached separately



5. The Visibility Playbook™

Get noticed by the right people

What it is: Strategies for building your personal brand, seeking high-visibility projects, and ensuring your contributions get credited by leadership.

Why it matters for you: We discussed how non-technical skills drive rapid promotion. This gives you the specific tactics.

Attached separately



6. The Networking Script Library™

Reach out to product development managers with confidence

What it is: Ready-to-use scripts for reaching out to managers you want to work with, requesting informational chats, and expressing interest in rotations.

Why it matters for you: I offered to connect you with PD managers at Silvis. These scripts help you make the most of those introductions.

Attached separately

Actions Before Session 1

Please complete before our first session—these will make our time together WAY more effective:

- Start your **Job Posting Database** — Save 5-10 product development / software engineering postings that interest you
- List out your **Quality Engineering responsibilities** — What do you do day-to-day? What problems have you solved?
- Research **Product Development roles at Deere** — What teams exist at Silvis? What do they work on?
- Identify **3 managers or engineers** in Product Development you'd want to meet or work with
- Gather any **resume materials** you have — Even if incomplete, bring what you've got
- Message me on Teams at work so we can **connect on PD managers at Silvis**
- Post an introduction** in the Skool community — Just a few sentences about who you are and your goals

 **Pro Tip:** Don't stress about perfection. The goal is to gather information and start thinking strategically. We'll refine everything together. Remember: you're way ahead just by doing this now.

Let's set you up for long-term success.

You're doing something 95% of students never do—preparing proactively.

We're going to build your resume, develop your interview skills, and position you for product development.

Your factory experience is **real value**.

Your initiative is **real value**.

Let's make sure everyone else sees it too.

Excited to work with you, Sayid!

— Mansour

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Confidential — Prepared for Sayid Sirojev