

Professional Statement

Who am I? I am aspiring to be a successful engineer who will make a difference in the world and in someone's life. To become a successful engineer, I need to start evolving into a "World-Class" Engineering student, meaning; hardworking, courageous, and determined to learn and grow in bettering myself as a student and as an individual.

Since a young age, I have always loved math and science, because of this I have been urged to pursue engineering. Throughout my childhood, everyone would ask me ... "So, Andrea. What do you want to be when you grow up..."? I would then state with confidence, an engineer. Even though I didn't really know who they are nor what they do, all I knew was that it was something I wanted to pursue. But in the summer of 2018 before junior year, I had the opportunity to attend a program called Women in Engineering Summer Program (WIESP) at the University of Illinois at Chicago. At WIESP, I learned what it means to be an engineer, and obtained a first-hand look at careers in engineering, and the difference they can make in my community. Having had the opportunity to apply and attend this program has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. You can say, it's what solidified my decision on becoming an engineer, specifically an industrial engineer. The similarities of the two are a mixture of majors that really interest me, engineering and business. I love how it includes a little bit of everything, which can be applied to any industry. While attending a Women in Engineering conference, the keynote speaker was an industrial engineer. She explained her career while working for Hydro Flask and expressed her love for her line of work because... "she gets to make things happen". This is the kind of career I would like to pursue, one where I can create a change or movement of some sort. Together, college and industrial engineering will create a pathway for me to be successful in my future.

Throughout my college experience, I have had the opportunity to be a part of the Treasurer's Committee for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. I have collaborated with several committee members to organize fundraisers where portions or all donations have proceeded to go to non-profits, surrounding the Urbana-Champaign area. While also having the opportunity to become a committee member in the engineering open house for the Freshman Engineering Council located at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. While doing so, we

recently organized a virtual event that showcased the world of engineering to inspire our surrounding communities & future engineers. One of the most exciting things occurring this summer is participating in Career Preview for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), which is a one-day event that will teach me more about what it's like to work at PwC and prepare for the START internship which begins in the summer of 2022.

This summer, I am participating in the four-week Coding Institute program funded by Science Gateways Community Institute (SGCI) & National Science Foundation (NSF). Where I have learned core skills needed to be productive in the design and maintenance of science gateways. I have had the opportunity to engage in several hands-on tutorials regarding Python and Unix languages, interaction with GitHub, improving my public speaking skills, and much more. After the four-week workshop is complete, my team and I will be presenting our project, while following up by participating in a hackathon in July of 2021, while attending the PEARC21 conference.

I am also participating in two externships through Goldman Sachs. The first one is the Emerging Leaders Series, which is a year-long program where we have information sessions for two days every couple of months. The second internship is the Goldman Sachs Insight series which is an eight-week program where I will focus on perfecting my resume, learning about the various roles and divisions at Goldman Sachs, reviewing interview best practices, and networking with professionals from across the firm. My overall goal by the end of each program is to interview for an internship analyst position after my junior year. I believe that with more experience and knowledge I obtain, my future ahead is even closer.

Obtaining a degree is essential to me because, as a first-generation student. My parents have sacrificed so much for me so that I can obtain a great education and have a successful life. I work hard to achieve my goals because I aspire to be a successful engineer while making a difference in the world. Earning a degree will expand my knowledge because I am learning new skills and developing my network. My biggest goal is to continue my education by achieving more advanced degrees. That is why I strongly believe that obtaining a bachelor's degree is my first step to getting there. One of the many educational goals I have is to graduate with my industrial engineering degree while minoring in computer science. My primary focus after is to work in the industry for a few years; then return to school to complete my MBA. Leading to my career goal,

which is to work as an engineer at Goldman Sachs and deploy the innovations that drive their business and financial markets worldwide. Their engineering teams build massively scalable software and systems, protective networks which fight against cyber threats and turn data into action. My interests are finance and engineering and I would like to pursue a career that involves both because it is one of my biggest passions in life.