

NACME Scholar Testimonials

Valeria A. Gonzalez

TITLE: Technology Consulting Senior Analyst, Accenture

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering and a Master of Engineering in Engineering Management, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), both 2014

EXPERIENCE: Working at Accenture under the Defense Logistics Agency, Valeria supports requirement gathering efforts, functional design of the systems to be delivering to the client, and serves as a contact point between the technical team and Accenture clients.

Valeria always knew she wanted to be an engineer, and for most of her childhood that meant being an astronaut. "I have always wanted to be in a field related to science or

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technology. This idea became very strong during my junior year of high school, but I did not know what type of engineering I wanted to pursue. That was decided when I first walked into the industrial engineering lab at RIT." says Gonzalez.

"I always wanted to go to college. How I was going to pay was not as clear. NACME was a much needed support system. It connected me with peers who were going through similar situations, encouraged me to connect with professionals, and allowed me to grow my network. NACME was a reason to stay connected with my peers, hear their stories, and help each other. I felt like someone was looking out for me and that gave me a sense of comfort."



Aaron Henry

TITLE: Systems Engineer, Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems

EDUCATION: Bachelors of Science, Electrical Engineering, Drexel University, 2002: Master of Science, Technical Management, Johns Hopkins University, 2014

EXPERIENCE: Aaron Henry wasn't sure what he wanted to be until his senior year in high school. He always earned excellent grades and possessed outstanding communication, interpersonal, and analytical skills applicable to many career fields. During his senior year in high school, Aaron narrowed his career options to three possibilities; lawyer, architect, or engineer. He then attended a summer camp at Penn State University. "That sold me on becoming an engineer."

"The NACME Staff was my home away from home ... giving me the added strength and courage to believe in myself and push harder to achieve my life goals, which I will never forget."

"My family was not financially positioned to put me through college, so I was determined to find a scholarship," said Henry.



"NACME has provided me with invaluable support throughout my college years at Drexel University," Henry said. "I was truly honored and blessed to have been given the financial support to attend the university of my choice." Henry also said that in addition to the financial support, he is thankful for the mentoring and coaching he received from the NACME staff. "The NACME Staff was my home away from home, my extended family, giving me the added strength and courage to believe in myself and push harder to achieve my life goals, which I will never forget."



Shani Allison

TITLE: Program Management Analyst, Ford Motor Company

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science, The Pennsylvania State University, Electrical Engineering, 2001; Master of Science, University of Michigan, Engineering Management, 2010

EXPERIENCE: Shani's position has her leading cross functional teams (engineering, manufacturing, purchasing, finance, and others) that resolve vehicle level program issues on super duty truck programs, manage sourcing processes, and lead prototype builds and production launches.

Shani is grateful for her NACME Scholarship. "It relieved a lot of stress by supplying financial help while in college. Also, the two summer internship experiences I got through



"The two summer internship experiences I got through NACME put me ahead of my peers. By having previous work experience I was able to find success quickly."

NACME put me ahead of my peers. By having previous work experience I was able to find success quickly and transition into the workforce smoothly, which allowed me to pay it forward sooner than later."

Shani has great hope for the future and offers this advice to students, "Engineers make a world of difference and help shape the future. Once you graduate college with an engineering degree, there are endless opportunities. Thomas Edison is credited as saying, 'Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.' I would tell them that the hard work does pay off because bold ideas are turned into reality."

Stefan B. McCall

TITLE: Field Engineer, ExxonMobil

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, 2015

EXPERIENCE: As a recent hire at ExxonMobil, Stefan works as a Field Engineer on the Baton Rouge Area Projects Construction team.

"I have always had a love for mathematics, but wasn't introduced to engineering until middle school," says Stefan. "I decided to go into engineering after my junior year in high school when I attended the Engineering Summer Academy at the University of Arkansas.

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NACME I was able to become a member of the inaugural class of the ExxonMobil Future Leaders Academy program, which led to me receiving an internship with ExxonMobil. At the end of my internship with ExxonMobil, I was offered a full-time position. It is quite easy to see the impact that NACME has had on my life."

Read more NACME Scholars testimonials at: nacme.org/engineered-stories-for-you