

Staring in amazement at the sky, planes flew by, booming in their splendor. "Daddy, how do planes fly?" she asked. Her father smiled and told her, "Engineers design the planes so that even though they are heavy, they can fly all around the world." It was in that moment that she decided when she grew up, she would be an engineer so she too could make planes that fly in all their grandeur.

Continuing in her dream, that little girl is now me, in her third year of college studying mechanical engineering and minoring in aerospace engineering. I am still amazed at the possibilities my education will bring not only for my career but for the world. Becoming an engineer will not just allow me to design planes-becoming an engineer will allow me to solve the hard problems our world is facing. One such problem that I find fascinating is creating "flying cars." I would like to do research and figure out how to create propulsion at low speeds. With this knowledge, we could have vehicles hover and fly at common highway speeds. This would transform the roadways and the entire auto industry.

Another reason I want to become an engineer is to help forge the path for future young women in the field. I plan on continuing on to graduate school and achieving my Ph.D. so that I can become an engineering professor and researcher. Currently, there are almost no female engineering professors throughout Academia. I want to change that. When young women have female professors, they realize they too can become a professor one day. Being a positive role model for other women, to me, is just as important as solving technical problems in the world.

In my current studies, I aim to be the best version of myself possible. In order to do this, I am very involved in engineering activities. Since winning the Exelon Scholarship in June 2014, I have been involved both locally and nationally with the Society of Women Engineers. Through this, I have networked extensively with my peers and women in the industry. I have also had the opportunity to help plan events for our local membership. I am also involved with our local chapter of ASME. I frequent technical talks hosted by our chapter. These talks host professors and graduate students to present their current research. As well, I hope to get involved with my ASME chapter in a design competition next year. I was unable to do so this year because I am currently studying abroad.

This year, I have had the privilege of joining the NYU Hyperloop team on the Design and Manufacturing teams. Through this experience, I have been able to directly apply my classroom knowledge and understanding how to implement theory into practice. This has solidified my desire to become an engineer and allowed me to grow professionally and academically.