

As a young child, I often pondered over my future career choices, starting from impractical aspirations of becoming a professional athlete to considering the medical field. However, it was not until I enrolled in a four-year Project Lead the Way engineering program in high school that I discovered my passion for engineering. I started this program to follow in my brother's footsteps as he was in the process of finishing the program as I was beginning it. He told me about all the many interesting aspects of the course, and it grew my interest. The program provided a comprehensive introduction to the field of engineering, which sparked my interest and led me to explore the different areas of specialization within the field.

During the program, I was presented with the option to choose between aerospace engineering and civil engineering in my third year. While aerospace engineering offered an exciting opportunity to work on advanced technologies, civil engineering had the potential to impact society by improving infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and buildings. Although my brother went on the aerospace path, I took some careful consideration into my decision, and I ultimately decided to pursue civil engineering as my chosen field of study.

Although I initially selected civil engineering without a concrete plan to make it a permanent part of my future, my interest in the subject was piqued due to the experiences I gained during my classes. Specifically, the multitude of projects and the practical application of civil engineering principles and techniques in class caught my attention and prompted me to contemplate a career in this field. Additionally, when I scored a perfect score on the Project Lead the Way civil engineering exam it gave me more reassurance that this was the right path for me.

Becoming a civil engineer there are multiple fields that I could pursue for my future career, each related to construction in their own unique way. Whatever field of civil engineering I proceed with I would have a large role in construction. Civil engineers have one of the largest

roles of construction, planning, designing, and managing projects, for a large variety of structures, from bridges, to buildings, to so many other projects.

As a student at Stephen Decatur High School, I am a member of several organizations, sports teams, and honor societies so that I can stay involved in the community and school activities. In 2021, I wanted to be more involved with the community, so that is how I decided to join the Leo Club. The Leo Club is a community service club that works with the local Lions Club to support the community in many ways. Also, I participated in the football team and the indoor and outdoor track team. Lastly, I am a part of numerous honor societies, including the National Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society, and secretary of the Math Honor Society. With each honor societies, I had to complete a specific amount of service hours and tutor other students after school.

In summary, since my junior year of high school I have known that I want to become a civil engineer after taking a civil engineering class at Worcester Tech. After graduating college, I plan to have a degree in civil engineer which will give me numerous opportunities to be a large part of the construction industry. With this scholarship it can benefit me in many ways, and it will make the technology needed as an engineer at Virginia Tech more accessible for me.