

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY



*Developing a
Distinctive Engineer*

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



Study Engineering - Virtually Anywhere!

I knew as soon as I toured the campus and visited the College of Engineering that Valparaiso University was the place for me. I was amazed by how friendly the atmosphere was and impressed by the interaction that I witnessed between professors and students. I hoped to be able to take advantage of those types of mentorship opportunities once I was enrolled. The fact is, I have.

During my junior year at Valpo, I took a course in virtual reality that was taught by Professor Jeffrey Will. Once the class ended, I spoke with Professor Will about my interest in continuing my education in virtual reality. He hired me as a research assistant in his lab, and later invited me to assist with his research work on the virtual reality control from the Valpo campus of a farm vehicle located in Japan. Testing of the vehicle has progressed from simply observing the movements of the vehicle to operating auxiliary systems such as the blinkers, to actually controlling the movement of the vehicle from Valpo.

Working on the farm vehicle project has not only honed my research skills, but has also provided me with insight about working with different cultures. I had the opportunity to travel to Japan for 10 days and work directly with Dr. Murakami, a scientist from Japan's National Agricultural Research Center. Understanding the Japanese culture was very important for working efficiently and maintaining our partnership. I have also improved my ability to organize work schedules and set research milestones. Because of Professor Will's guidance, I can now write my own grants, conduct engineering research, write papers on research work and give presentations at professional conferences. The experience I have received from Valpo and the farm vehicle project will be a huge benefit for graduate school because I already know the basics of how research is conducted and will be an effective team member from the start.

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For more information about Valpo's College of Engineering, visit
www.valpo.edu/engineering



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