

Levee Callahan

### How My Community College Has Changed My Life

Choosing to attend Kishwaukee College after Senior year was an easy decision for me, and one which has changed my life very positively. When I graduated from Sycamore High School I had little to no clue of what I wanted to study, I was not financially prepared to leave home, nor did I want to take out loans for classes if down the road I changed my mind on what I wanted to major in. My community college seemed to take all my worries about college and my future and cast them aside. It fit my personality well and has given me the education I desired, through a rigorous schedule and some outstanding professors.

One class in that rigorous schedule, which was really a turning point in my life, was career planning. This is the first class I have had where I was taught about the business world, and how to be a professional. In fact, it was in this class where I determined my major; through some personality and interest testing I decided to look further into Mechanical Engineering. When it came time to interview a professional about their career (one assignment in my career planning class) I interviewed the head of the Engineering department, and I soaked up every word he had said. He had described the timeline of his career, explained to me what an engineer does on a day to day basis, and even laid out a flowchart of classes I should be taking to get my Associates of Engineering Science. It was a game changer. I feel as though the community college is a perfect place to ask questions and explore career options like I did to find something that you are personally interested in.

Not only has Kishwaukee College sparked my passion for mechanical engineering but it has saved me over \$10,000 per year, relative to In-state four-year institutions. I receive no

financial help from my FAFSA or my parents, so I am completely self-reliant when it come to paying for my education. Kishwaukee college has saved me in that aspect. I will also leave here with a fraction of the debt I would have accrued, and I was even able to pay off some semesters as I went.

My community college has positively changed my life and my future in so many ways. But I think the biggest one is they have set me on a path for success. I am now ready to co-enroll with Northern Illinois University in the Fall to study Mechanical Engineering with an emphasis on sustainable energy. I can see my future ahead of me, and I can't wait to get where I am going. I will forever be thankful and appreciative for my time at the wonderful Kishwaukee College.