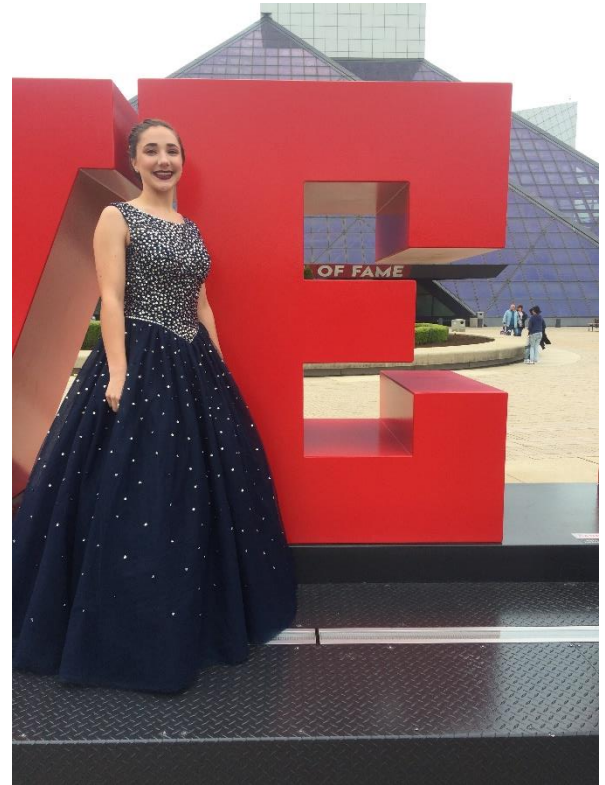# Elena Falcione

Computer Engineering
Applied Mathematics Minor

Hometown: Twinsburg, Ohio

Professional/Student Organizations:
- Secretary of Zips Electric Racing (Formula Electric SAE Design Team)
- Emerging Leaders Program/LEAP Mentor
- RHPB Tech Committee
- RooCatholic
- Society of Women Engineers/Women in Engineering Program
- Society of Automotive Engineers
- Zip to STEM Program
- Intramural Soccer and Futsal

Co-op/Research Experience
- Swagelok Company – Valve Service Group Intern

Why did you choose the University of Akron?

The Emerging Leaders Program drew me to the University of Akron. The program placed me in a community of students who share a determination to develop leadership skills and make the most of their education. Through this community, I was connected with many campus resources and student organizations. I am happy to be returning as a LEAP Mentor for the program next year!

Why did you choose Computer Engineering as your major?

Engineering has always been a part of my life - from summer camps at the Great Lakes Science Center to building a model V8 engine. After being a member of FIRST Lego League (FLL) and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams in middle school, I knew I wanted to study engineering. I chose Computer Engineering because I enjoy following the step-by-step thought process of writing code. I hope to work with robots or in data analytics after graduation.

What advice would you give to an incoming engineering student?

Don't be afraid to try things that seem multidisciplinary. It never hurt a mechanical engineer to know a little programming, or a computer engineer to be able to model something in SolidWorks. As I learned through my design team experience and my internship with Swagelok Company, engineers don't work alone. Maximizing your learning experience means asking plenty of questions and volunteering to try new things, even if they are outside your field of study.