

Jillian Hilenski

Mechanical Engineering

Hometown: Perrysville, Ohio

Professional/Student Organizations:

- Engineering Service Design Team
- Dean's Team

Co-op/Research Experience

- MOOG Space and Defense Group
- PACS Switchgear
- 1200 Feet Limited



Why did you choose the University of Akron?

Choosing a college was a big deal to me. I wanted a large enough class where I could meet new people every year, but a small enough class size where office hours and in-class questions still meant something. Design Teams were important as it showcased the schools success and support in real-life applications of the course material. Lastly, I wanted to feel valued being a woman in engineering. Akron met every single hope I had for a college education and more.

Why did you choose Mechanical Engineering as your major?

Growing up in a rural town and working on farms, I heard a lot of negativity toward engineers, mechanical engineers to be specific. “If those engineers behind their desks actually knew how we used this equipment everyday . . .” I wanted to stop the inherent disconnect that can happen between design and practical application and made it a personal goal to do so. My Grandpa also shared his loved for classic cars and all things mechanical with me at a young age, which translated to my chosen field.

What advice would you give to an incoming engineering student?

Be impassioned. Find the things that provoke thought and emotions within you and focus on that. Give it your absolute everything in all that you do because if you're not utilizing your full potential there is no point in doing it at all. Be the best version of you.

What is the most valuable thing that the College of Engineering has taught you?

Hard work, above all else, pays off. All of the late nights in the library help you to truly understand material that you thought would never make sense. When you wake up in the morning and equations and processes are running through your head first thing, it is a great feeling.