

Julia Vaughn

Mechanical Engineering

Hometown: North Canton, Ohio

Professional/Student Organizations:

- SAE Zips Baja
- Campus Focus

Co-op/Research Experience

- Schaeffler (Advanced Torque Converter Design, Manufacturing Quality Engineering)



Why did you choose the University of Akron?

I chose the University Akron for their strong reputation in industry as well as their extensive relationships with local companies for co-op and full time placement. Akron was also the ideal location to allow for my continual volunteering with a local summer camp.

Why did you choose Mechanical Engineering as your major?

I chose Mechanical Engineering as it was my strongest skill when going through the Project Lead the Way courses offered by my high school. This program was especially unique as it allowed students to explore Electrical, Mechanical, and Civil engineering extensively. I found myself gravitating towards mechanical engineering oriented projects most of the time.

What advice would you give to an incoming engineering student?

I would highly recommend that all students, incoming or otherwise, join a design team. I would also recommend that if any team they look at doesn't fit their interests, they should continue to try different teams until they find their place. The students on the team are great resources for class related questions and help translate the concepts taught in class to real life applications. I would also recommend finding study groups as early as possible. They will make learning and studying for hours much more enjoyable.

Who was the one person that really inspired you here at the University of Akron and why?

One person who has really inspired me is Heidi Cressman, the Director for The UA Women in Engineering Program. When I came to Akron, I instantly knew I had a resource who would always be there to help me. She has been so supportive of every single person here at the University, especially her Women in Engineering students. Whenever I needed some insight into classes to take or companies to talk to, she was always ready to help. I am especially inspired by her motivation and drive to be the best she can be.