ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Office of Professional Practice

#7 CO-OPS AND INTERNSHIPS IN THE NATION

U.S. News & World Report (2025)

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MESSAGE FROM THE **DIRECTOR**

Dear Boilermakers,

I am proud to conclude my second year serving as Director of the Office of Professional Practice (OPP) at Purdue University, and I'm even more excited to share the great achievements our team has accomplished in regard to work-integrated learning. The OPP team and students oversee a remarkable array of innovative and flexible programs that provide working and learning through co-ops, internships, professional development and technical skills training. With opportunities ranging from local startups in Indiana to international experiences, this office remains a gem within Purdue University. Our incredible team is initiating new projects to uniquely prepare our students for leadership roles in the semiconductor and pharmaceutical manufacturing industries, along with the launch of new opportunities within Innovation in Public Service. I am eager to come alongside our team to contribute to equipping Boilermakers with the essential professional skills for their success.

Dr. Phillip S. Dunston is a professor of Construction Engineering in the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering.

It is gratifying to highlight the significant achievements of OPP during the 2024-2025 year. We continue to break records in program offerings, student enrollment and employer engagement. This report outlines the many achievements accomplished over the year, and we invite you to join us in celebrating experiential education on our campus.

OPP has a mission to facilitate the experiential education and work-integrated learning for Purdue students. Throughout the school year, we engaged with over **25,184 students** through the co-op fair, employer information sessions, professional practice courses, family visits to campus and various workshops across West Lafayette and Indianapolis campuses. Thank you to our **400+ employer partners** for providing these excellent work-integrated learning experiences.

We celebrate **3,840 academic co-op and internship work sessions this year**, with **1,246 active co-op students** and **90 students in our Global Engineering Alliance for Research & Education (GEARE) program** who are studying and working abroad in **21 countries** around the world. We also funded **36 student summer internships** for **Indiana startups and early-stage companies**, to help boost economic growth and workforce development in our home state. Our **Milestones Technical Skills courses** awarded **686 students** with hands-on learning opportunities and a **micro-certificate/digital badge** in engineering and prototyping skills.

As we continue to bring in new faces with new talents and ideas to benefit the Purdue Family via the extension of Purdue University in Indianapolis, we look forward to what's ahead. We will continue in pursuit of our next giant leap with preparing the future workforce of Boilermakers. Experiential education is a vital piece of student success, and we are happy to be campus leaders in this effort.

Boiler Up!

OPP // PROGRAMS

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION (CO-OP)

Purdue Co-op has been the premier professional work experience program at Purdue University for 70 years. Students participating in the program can earn an academic certificate upon graduation and enhance their academic knowledge with practical skills through progressively challenging work experiences with industry partners. Co-op models for undergraduate students can result in 12-20 months of work experience. Co-op provides students with an in-depth knowledge of a company. More than 80% of Purdue co-op students earn a full-time offer with their company prior to graduation. Graduate students may participate in the Master's co-op program, which allows students to complete a 6-12 month work rotation with an employer prior to completion of their degree.

After extensive conversations with top co-op universities in the U.S. and Canada, internal conversations with faculty, co-op coordinators, and students, and external conversations with industry partners, Purdue has updated the co-op certificate program. This update provides greater access and flexibility to both students and employers.

INDUSTRY CO-OP CERTIFICATE

The Industry Co-op Certificate is awarded to students who complete approximately one year of full-time work (at least one fall/spring semester) experience related to their academic field of study. Students are required to register for a cooperative education course during each academic term for which they are engaged in full-time work with an employer. Students are required to complete a minimum of three work terms, and participate in a progressive experience, with a minimum of two work terms occurring with the same employer. Students must complete all necessary requirements specific to their academic discipline.

EXTENSIVE INDUSTRY CO-OP CERTIFICATE

The Extensive Industry Co-op Certificate is awarded to students who complete approximately 18 months of full-time work experience related to their academic field of study. Students are required to register for a cooperative education course during each academic term for which they are engaged in full-time work with an employer. Students are required to complete five work terms, and participate in a progressive experience, with multiple work terms occurring at the same employer. Students may change employers one time. Students must complete all necessary requirements specific to their academic discipline.

GLOBAL ENGINEERING ALLIANCE FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (GEARE)

GEARE is Purdue's premier global professional training program, available to students from all engineering disciplines, computer science and data science. GEARE students enhance their global competency by completing language study, one semester of study abroad, one domestic internship, one global internship, three one-semester cultural training seminars and one global design team project. GEARE has recently added Humanities Informed Engineering Projects, a three-credit course exploring the impact of culture on various engineering projects across the world. This course was developed via a National Endowment for the Humanities grant in collaboration with the Purdue School of Languages and Culture.

The Office of Professional Practice develops relationships with world-renowned university partners and global industry partners interested in developing future employees with top of the line technical and global skills. Our office maintains strong partnerships with universities and global employers in more than 20 countries. Purdue's recent membership into the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) network provides students with internship opportunities in over 80 countries.

GEARE utilizes the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and a series of courses to help students maximize their growth in global competency. Continuous assessment finds GEARE to be one of the most effective programs in encouraging global competency development among its participants.

INTERNS FOR INDIANA (IFI)

The Interns for Indiana program connects entrepreneurially minded Purdue University students to Indiana startups and early-stage companies in order to promote economic development, enhance student success and provide professional opportunities to high performing students. Students will complete their internship during the summer. The Office of Professional Practice offers funding to help these companies hire student talent. Throughout the past two years, 450+ students have applied to be part of the program and 30 students have been awarded internships. OPP currently assists with stipend funding for current students and hopes to expand programming and grow the program size.

MILESTONES

The Milestones program helps students enhance technical skills to supplement and enrich knowledge gained in the classroom. Milestones modules average 15 hours of hands-on education in a particular technical field. The modules are currently offered for free to Purdue students. Students successfully completing a Milestones module will earn a digital certificate. Milestones modules include various topics in Prototyping and Manufacturing as well as Electronics and App Development. The Milestones program aims to elevate the technical abilities of Purdue students while providing industry with co-op students and interns ready to make an impact.

LEARNING WHILE WORKING (LWW)

Learning While Working (LWW) is a work-integrated learning initiative that allows students the opportunity to engage in sequential industry experiences in a variety of modalities. Students can engage in full-time work for 12-15 months while reducing their time to graduation through online courses or receiving technical electives through faculty mentored industry projects. Students may also opt to engage in part-time work while enrolled in the fall and spring semesters. This model of LWW can be an extension of a summer experience or used as an introductory experience to a full-time internship/co-op experience.

LWW students are ideal candidates for extensive projects and are able to support industry needs through impactful and engaging experiences. LWW partners have included Cummins, General Motors, Tesla, Merck, Apple, Amazon, Lilly and more.

OFFICE // UPDATES

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Jermaine Williams Jr., Ph.D.

Assistant Director, Computer Science Internships and Student Development

Jermaine joins the Office of Professional Practice with over six years of experience in student development and leadership in higher education. His work focuses on mentoring college students and fostering inclusive, equity-centered learning environments. Prior to Purdue, Jermaine served as an Area Director in the Division of Educational Outreach and Student Services at Arizona State University. He holds a B.S. in Informatics with a specialization in Human-Centered Computing and an M.A. in Arts Administration from Indiana University-Bloomington. Jermaine is a professional member of the National Society of Black Engineers and has advised collegiate chapters at Indiana University and Arizona State.

Sue Bayley

Public Service Co-op and Internship Manager

Sue brings a background in education, coaching, business, and higher education to the Office of Professional Practice. With a B.A. in Elementary Education from Purdue and an M.A. in Human Services from Purdue Global, Sue has over 30 years of teaching and coaching experience, including three years as the Head Coach for Purdue Cheer and Mascot. In 2014, she joined the Purdue Women in Engineering Program, where she developed K-10 outreach initiatives. Most recently, Sue served as the Executive Assistant to Purdue's First Lady. Passionate about student success, Sue is excited to leverage her wide-ranging experience to connect students with public service opportunities and support their journey toward the new NobleReach Innovation in Public Service Certificate.

SHOWING EXCELLENCE AT SCALE //

GROWTH & IMPACT

1,246 CO-OP WORK TERMS

2,594 INTERNSHIP WORK TERMS

540 GEARE STUDENTS

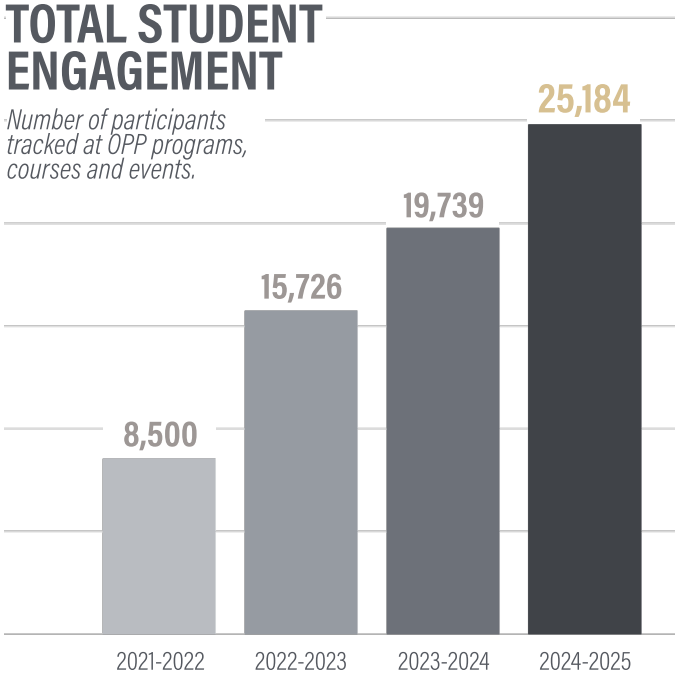
36 INTERNS FOR INDIANA STUDENTS

686 MILESTONES CERTIFICATES AWARDED

773 STUDENTS AT CO-OP & GEARE CALLOUTS

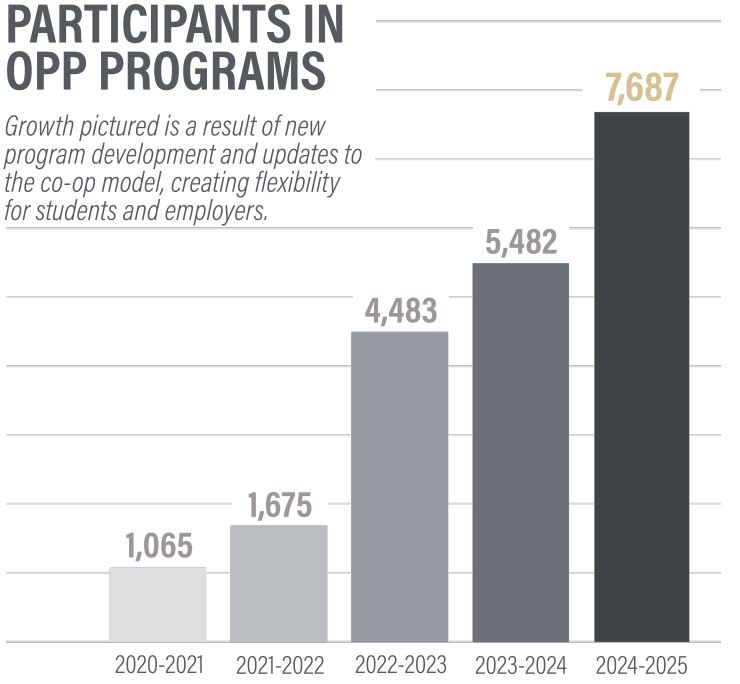
TOTAL STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Number of participants tracked at OPP programs, courses and events.



PARTICIPANTS IN OPP PROGRAMS

Growth pictured is a result of new program development and updates to the co-op model, creating flexibility for students and employers.

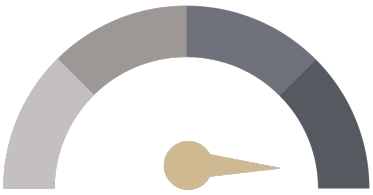


$25/HR

AVERAGE PAY FOR CO-OP STUDENTS

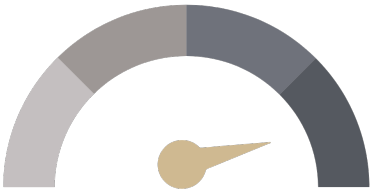
442

UNIQUE EMPLOYER PARTNERS



96%

OF STUDENTS REPORT THEIR CO-OP/INTERNSHIP WAS VALUABLE TO THEIR OVERALL COLLEGE EXPERIENCE



88%

OF STUDENTS REPORT THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN WORKING FULL-TIME WITH THEIR EMPLOYER

MAPPING OPP'S REACH

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

National Association for Foreign Student Advisers (NAFSA) Annual Conference

Impact of Global Experience on the Engineering Career Path

Conference for Industry and Education Collaboration (CIEC)

Adding Value to a 0-Credit Course: Data Collection Impact for Co-op & Internships

American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Annual Conference

Developing a Survey Exploring the Impact of Global Undergraduate Experiences on Engineers Career Path

Annual Colloqium of International Engineering Education (ACIEE)

Developing a Survey to Study the Impact of Global Undergraduate Experiences

Managing a Long-Standing Global Engineering Program: Purdue GEARE

Cooperative Education & Internship Association (CEIA) Annual Conference

Integrating Employers into Professional Skills & Industry Knowledge Courses

The Gen Z Effect: How Hiring Student Staff Leads to Program Growth & Engagement

OPP IN //

INDIANAPOLIS

3,312 UNIQUE ENGAGEMENTS

519 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ENGR 103

57 LILY SCHOLARS PLACEMENTS

37 ACTIVE PPA MEMBERS

40 STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT INAUGURAL INTERN SIGNING DAY

341 STUDENTS AT INAUGURAL CO-OP & INTERN FAIR

OPP in Indianapolis // First Year in Focus

Interns for Indiana Indianapolis Launch

Through the Interns for Indiana program, three students were placed with Purdue-affiliated startups in Indianapolis: Glassboard, Anu, and Neurava, . Building on this momentum, Summer 2025 will expand the program to include 10 new startups and 35 student placements across West Lafayette and Indianapolis, offering paid internships focused on innovation and entrepreneurship.

GEARE Indianapolis Cohort

Fourteen students joined the first GEARE Indianapolis cohort. Students will complete U.S.-based industry experiences while preparing for global study abroad opportunities.

Silicon Valley Immersion Trip

Over Spring Break 2025, 7 students from Indianapolis traveled to California for ENGR 103: Intro to Silicon Valley & Tech. The trip featured 11 company visits and 3 networking events focused on tech careers and innovation.

Inaugural Student Signing Day in Indianapolis

Purdue hosted its first-ever Student Signing Day in Indianapolis to celebrate students securing internships, co-ops, and research roles.

Indianapolis Site Visits: Rheem

In November, the Office of Professional Practice visited Rheem's ATI facility for a day of hands-on workshops, networking, and a guided tour. The visit highlighted the company's innovative operations and introduced students to co-op and internship opportunities in the region. Other site visits in Indianapolis included Guidon Design and Glassboard. These visits offer students a broader look at career opportunities across industries in the region.

OPP ON CAMPUS //
EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT

Semiconductor Networking Session

Over 600 students packed the room to engage with 19 leading semiconductor companies and hear from key figures including Mark Lundstrom (Purdue Chief Semiconductor Officer), Jaesik Lee (SK hynix), and Cristina Farmus (Purdue Vice President for Special Projects).

ENGR 103 FYE Professional Development Panel

OPP hosted a panel of experts in ENGR 103 sections featuring Patrick McLaughlin (PepsiCo), Jana Goldenberg Goldberg (Air Products), Kelsey Vaughn (Fortive/Tektronix), and Matt Thompson, DSL (Reliable MicroSystems, LLC). These panelists served as valuable resources to our students, providing practical advice on navigating career fairs, effectively approaching recruiters, and more.

Purdue Life Sciences & Pharma Career Fair

This year, the Office of Professional Practice hosted an intimate career fair focused on the Life Sciences and Pharma sectors, connecting over 300 students from the Colleges of Engineering, Science, Health & Human Sciences, and Pharmacy with leading pharmaceutical companies and Indiana-based startups. This event provided an opportunity for students to engage with industry representatives, fostering valuable connections in the pharmaceutical field. The career fair aligns with the initiatives of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Certificate, offered in collaboration with the William D. Young Institute for Advanced Manufacturing of Pharmaceuticals. This certificate provides broad technical exposure to the pharmaceutical and life sciences fields through relevant courses and experiential learning opportunities. Students who attain this certificate will be well positioned to advance into successful careers working in the global pharmaceutical industry.

State House Visit

In celebration of 150 years of Purdue Engineering, a group of students who completed co-ops and internships were invited to the Indiana Statehouse alongside Dean Arvind Raman to participate in a special recognition event. They had the opportunity to connect with Indiana lawmakers, share their work-integrated learning experiences, and discuss their future career goals. The visit also included a meet-and-greet with state representatives and alumni business leaders, highlighting the strong link between Purdue Engineering talent and Indiana's workforce needs.

FYE Industry Night

In collaboration with the First-Year Engineering Program, the Office of Professional Practice hosted the annual First-Year Engineering (FYE) Industry Exploration Night, welcoming over 1,200 FYE students. This event featured more than 120 industry representatives, including Purdue University College of Engineering alumni, current co-op students, co-op coordinators, academic advisors, Professional Practice Hall of Fame inductees, and practicing engineers. This opportunity built connections between students and industry professionals, offering a well-rounded perspective on engineering careers across various disciplines and experience levels. As representatives shared their professional journeys, students explored potential career paths and gained valuable insights that could influence their transition to majors following their FYE experience. Through this opportunity or early engagement, FYE Industry Night empowers students to make more informed decisions about their academic and professional futures

STUDY ABROAD, WORK ABROAD //
GET IN GEARE

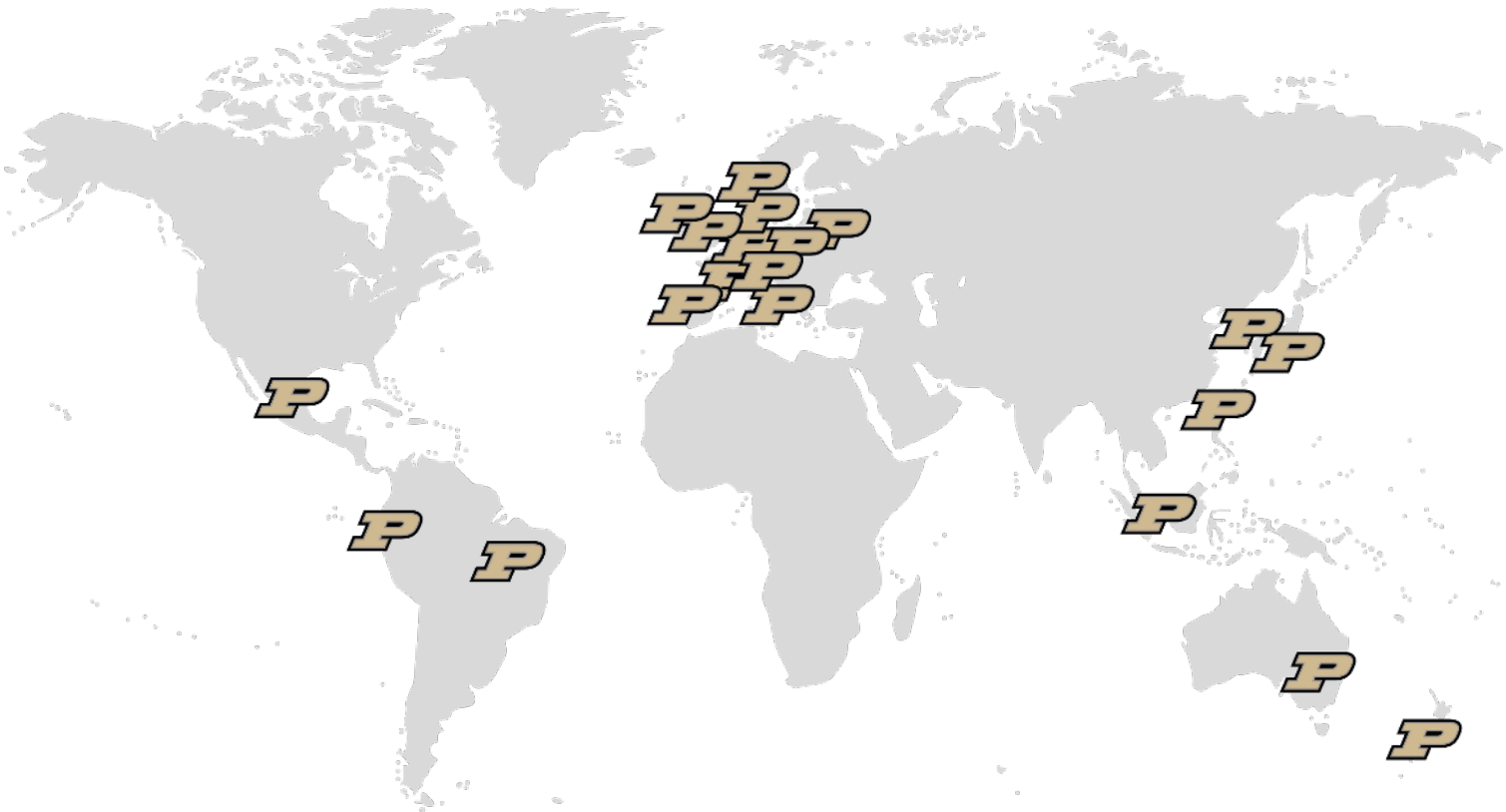
540 GEARE STUDENTS

90 STUDENTS ABROAD

1,000+ GEARE ALUMNI

STUDENTS CURRENTLY ABROAD IN **21** COUNTRIES

Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, The United Kingdom



85 GLOBAL ENGINEERING STUDIES MINORS AWARDED (2024-2025)

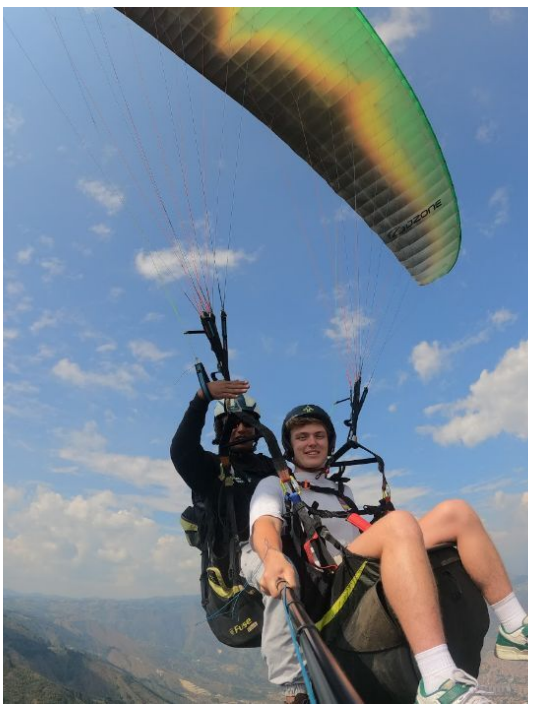
18 MAJORS REPRESENTED (2024-2025)

AAE, AE, AI, BE, BME, CHE, CE, COMPE, CS, DS, EE, EEE, IE, MSE, ME, MDE, NE, RET

GEARE NETWORKING NIGHT

GEARE seniors showcased their experiences in the program, sharing about their time studying abroad and working abroad. Following the symposium, over 220 talented students and 20 global companies, came together for the GEARE Networking Night. The event afforded students from various engineering disciplines the unique opportunity to explore internships and full-time positions while networking with leading industry professionals. GEARE Networking Night offers a strong focus on international work and study opportunities. Students and employers engaged in meaningful conversations, forged valuable connections and gained insights into Purdue and the global job market. The Networking Night highlighted the importance of global collaboration and provided a platform for students eager to enhance their careers through international experiences.

GEARE STUDENTS ABROAD



INTERNS FOR // INDIANA

Interns for Indiana (IFI) connects entrepreneurially minded Purdue students to Indiana startups and early stage companies. These opportunities promote economic development, enhance student success and provide specialized, paid internships to high performing students.

HOW IT WORKS

- Internship opportunities are offered during the summer and students must apply directly to IFI opportunities
- Students will work for a minimum of 10 weeks on a full-time (40 hours per week) basis
- Students selected for internship opportunities must register for ENTR 39699 Interns for Indiana Experience
- Students completing all course deliverables will receive a minimum $6,000 stipend from the Lilly Interns for Indiana Endowment

STUDENT BENEFITS

- Unique professional development with C-suite executives
- Individualized internship experiences with specific roles and results driven outcomes
- Opportunities to explore startup culture and learn about all business functions

RESOURCES FOR EMPLOYERS

- OPP opens applications for the IFI program each fall semester and employers are asked to submit a proposal of outlined roles and request internships for the upcoming summer
- Upon approval, employers are notified of funding level and are required to submit a job description with responsibilities and student outcomes
- OPP drives the entire student recruitment process for each IFI employer partner and submits candidate resume books by early spring (typically end of February)
- Employers are required to screen, interview and create offer letters for students and must report hired IFI interns by May 1

LyoWave · Amplified Sciences · Glassboard · wavelogix · Neurava · NutraMaize · NBD NanoBio Designs, INC. · VD · ONOW · anu · Bryan Herta RallySport · GRYFN · CODE19 Racing · Vertikal X · Continuity Pharma

INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE //
CERTIFICATES

SEMICONDUCTORS & MICROELECTRONICS

The Certificate in Semiconductors and Microelectronics will be open to students in all undergraduate majors interested in careers in the field of semiconductors and microelectronics. This certificate will give undergraduate students broad technical exposure to topics in the areas of semiconductors and microelectronics and is designed to supplement the baccalaureate plans of studies in different majors, including (but not limited to) engineering, computer science, physics, chemistry, technology, and business.

269 *students currently enrolled from* **25** *different majors*

PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING

The certificate in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing is open to undergraduate students interested in careers in the pharmaceutical industry, primarily within the manufacturing and supply chain sectors. The certificate is designed to supplement the baccalaureate plans of study in different majors, including (but not limited to) engineering, computer science, chemistry, biology, pharmaceutical sciences, health sciences, technology, and business.

124 *students currently enrolled from* **5** *different majors*

Public Service

The Innovation for Public Service Certificate program is designed to increase the number of engineering graduates entering the public service sector, contributing as technology leaders and innovators. The 15+ hour certificate is available to students from various STEM majors. Students participating in the Innovation for Public Service Certificate program will contribute to a wide variety of career paths and opportunities impacting our local, state, and federal government.

80 *students currently eligible for the certificate*

LILLY SCHOLARS
AT PURDUE PROGRAM //

OPP is home to an innovative industry-academia partnership unlike any other. The Lilly Scholars at Purdue program is a collaborative scholarship program that is making strides in developing enthusiasm, interest, and outstanding talent in the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry. Covering up to eight semesters of full tuition, this pre-professional scholarship program will have a profound impact not only on the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry in Indiana, but in the pharma space as a whole. Lilly Scholars at Purdue are selected from a competitive application process, and once on campus, engage in a variety of both professional development opportunities and community-building events. From enrolling in ENGR 103: Pharma Careers for Lilly Scholars to participating in Mentor Circles with Lilly employees, Lilly Scholars at Purdue are connected to the pharmaceutical industry beginning their freshman year. Lilly Scholars at Purdue are guaranteed an internship at Lilly.

This year, the Lilly-Purdue 360 initiative was established, in which the university will receive a $250 million investment in the collaboration over the next 8 years to achieve important goals aimed at accelerating pharmaceutical innovation. These goals, noted by the university, include "discovering and accelerating the delivery of medicines to patients; bridging the gap between laboratory discoveries and clinical applications; creating more resilient, efficient, and sustainable supply chains; and deploying innovative, scalable approaches to workforce development. The expanded collaboration is also expected to generate significant economic benefits for Indiana by creating a highly skilled workforce and fostering local innovation."

Between welcoming Scholars who had never before thought Purdue University was a possibility for them, providing firsthand experiential learning opportunities for Scholars, facilitating relationship and community building experiences, and so much more, the Lilly Scholars at Purdue program values student growth and commits to talent development in a manner unlike any pre-professional scholarship program or industry-academia partnership that has come before it.

> "At the heart of the Lilly Scholars at Purdue program is a commitment to empowering talented students from various backgrounds with the tools, support, and opportunities they need to lead in pharmaceutical innovation. Through the Lilly Purdue 360 initiative, we're not only advancing the next generation of medicines, we're also building a more prepared, future-ready workforce that will help shape the health outcomes of tomorrow. It's an honor to be part of a partnership that turns ambition into access and innovation into impact."
>
> - **Kimberly Graham,** Senior Program Manager, Pharma Co-op and Lilly Scholars at Purdue

LILLY SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHTS

Jada Andrews
Chemical Engineering

"Being a Lilly Scholar offered me another layer of support and guidance that helped in my transition into college. I have been introduced to so many people through this program who just want me to succeed. Being a Lilly Scholar so early in the program also means that my experiences can help to shape future cohorts as well."

Isaac Nagel
Mechanical Engineering

"What really drove me to attend Purdue—and what made it stand out from other schools—was the Lilly Scholars Program. What stands out most is how this program, much like Lilly itself, encourages scholars to lead with purpose and give back to their communities. Being a Lilly Scholar at Purdue means I get to take that next giant leap forward—with the support, resources, and encouragement to follow through and make a real difference."

In the spring, Lilly Scholars visit the Lilly Corporate Center to connect with Lilly leaders and tour IPM and IDAP at LTC-South, gaining exposure for where their internships will be held. During this time, the spring interns present their internship projects to an audience that includes the first-year scholars, offering the younger scholars a chance to learn about areas in which they will be able to intern.

MORE ABOUT THE LILLY SCHOLARS AT PURDUE PROGRAM

The Lilly Scholars at Purdue program seeks to welcome students who are from under-resourced urban and rural populations, students who have overcome socioeconomic or educational disadvantages or students who are among the first generation in their family to attend college. With a focus on reducing barriers to higher education, all students interested in pursuing a career in pharmaceutical manufacturing will continue to be well served through this pre-professional scholarship program and all that it entails. To learn more about the Lilly Scholars at Purdue program, please visit our website.

2025 CO-OP DAYS // CAREER FAIR

The Office of Professional Practice's annual Co-op Days, held from January 27-29, 2025, brought together students and employers for networking, recruitment, and interviews focused on co-op and internship opportunities.

This exciting series of events kicked off on Monday with the inaugural Purdue in Indianapolis Co-op & Internship Career Fair, marking the expansion of Purdue's work-integrated learning initiatives into the heart of Indiana. With 322 students in attendance, the fair showcased career-ready students from engineering, science, and technology fields, providing employers with access to a growing talent pool. With new opportunities on the horizon, Purdue University aims to increase student participation in Indianapolis-based internships, offering hands-on experience, improving retention rates, and enhancing the likelihood of launching professional careers within Indiana.

Following the fair in Indianapolis, OPP hosted the annual Employer Engagement Meeting, where industry leaders discussed best practices for student recruitment. The evening concluded with the Professional Practice Ambassadors (PPA) Networking Night, giving students and employers a chance to connect in an informal setting.

The Co-op Career Fair at Purdue Memorial Union drew over 1,600 students eager to explore co-op opportunities. Over 65 unique employers from various industries engaged with top Purdue talent, identifying potential candidates for their organizations. The event wrapped up on Wednesday with Interview Day, where recruiters conducted one-on-one meetings with students interested in securing co-op placements. Employers praised Purdue students for their preparation and professionalism. Andrea Spalding, HR Manager - America at Landis+Gyr Technology, Inc., emphasized the impact of Purdue's initiatives on student readiness for the

> My colleagues and I find it rewarding to hear about all of the new initiatives that Purdue is undertaking to invest in their students' success. This is why Purdue students shine at these Career Fair and Co-op Fair events. The students are well prepared and have put time into writing their resumes and rehearsing their skill sets as they relate to our industry and their career goals."
>
> - **Andrea Spalding**, HR Manager - America at Landis+Gyr

For students like Shawn Brinster, a first-year Mechanical Engineering student at Purdue in Indianapolis, the event proved to be a turning point. Brinster successfully secured an offer from BMWC Construction.

"I attended the fair with the goal of securing a co-op and was particularly interested in companies involved in construction," Brinster said. "I had the opportunity to connect with Meagan Perratore from BMWC Construction, which was a great experience. Given my background working in construction during high school, our conversation felt natural, and I was able to discuss how my hands-on experience could translate into a co-op position."

As Purdue looks ahead, the university remains dedicated to expanding its reach and ensuring students have access to career experiences through events like Co-op Days.

CO-OP DAYS

STATISTICS

2,353
UNIQUE STUDENTS AT NETWORKING NIGHT AND CAREER FAIR
HIGHEST ON RECORD

168
COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES

65
UNIQUE EMPLOYERS

600+
UNIQUE OPENINGS FOR STUDENTS

90
MAJORS REPRESENTING **TEN** DIFFERENT COLLEGES

432
UNIQUE STUDENTS HAD AT LEAST ONE INTERVIEW

MAKE AN IMPACT
THROUGH OPP SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM //

Office of Professional Practice (OPP) corporate sponsorship supports industry connections with direct access to Purdue students across 13 different colleges and schools. Sponsorship focuses on strategic efforts with select employers seeking to enhance outcomes on campus with a multifaceted approach to connect with early talent pipelines.

SCHOLARSHIP & STUDENT FUNDS

The most important impact of our sponsorship program is the ability to award students with company-named academic scholarships. In addition, sponsorship supports experienced OPP ambassadors serving as mentors and teachings assistants.

$5,000

annual commitment to become an OPP Corporate Sponsor

EVENTS & CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

Host exclusive "day-on-campus" with customized programming and receive embedded OPP marketing, including featured stories on our website, social media and OPP newsletters, etc.

PREFERRED PROGRAMMING ACCESS

Receive early registration to career fairs with cost savings and priority invitations to campus events including ENGR 103 classroom lectures & First-Year Engineering Industry Exploration Night.

ASSIGNED OPP ACCOUNT MANAGER

Obtain a high touch level of support with direct access to campus engagement with a designated OPP staff member. Opportunities available for site visits and industry facility tours in person or virtual.

OPP LEADERSHIP & ADVISORY TEAM

Provide input for the future of talent and collaborate to share industry ideas. Help customize programming and build new professional development opportunities.

OPP CORPORATE // SPONSORS

OPP would like to thank our corporate sponsors for their generosity during 2024-2025 academic year. Through their continued support and engagement, our team is able to make a deeper impact on the overall outcomes of OPP students. We look forward to continuing to support the success of work-integrated learning partnerships in the 2025-2026 academic year.

ASML connected with 200+ students through meet & greets, resume workshops, panels, and classroom visits—bringing industry insights directly to ENGR 103 and beyond.

From resume tips to the Lilly Olympics, students connected with Eli Lilly professionals, explored career paths, and heard from Purdue Lilly Scholars and OPP TAs about internship experiences.

Tesla recruiters engaged with over 340 students across Purdue West Lafayette and Indianapolis, offering insight into roles in engineering and quality while highlighting Tesla's mission for a sustainable future.

Elanco representatives spent the day on campus connecting with students through info sessions and networking events. From career conversations to learning about the company's mission, it was a valuable day of engagement and exploration.

ASML Lilly Midea gm TESLA

TORC ROBOTICS DAIMLER Tektronix®

Elanco AIR PRODUCTS R.A JONES a coesia company VS ENGINEERING

ExxonMobil GE APPLIANCES Landis+Gyr

2024 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
HALL OF FAME

The Office of Professional Practice (OPP) was proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of this year's Professional Practice Hall of Fame inductees during a milestone year marking the 70th anniversary of Cooperative Education at Purdue.

These distinguished alumni were recognized for their outstanding contributions to their respective fields and to Purdue's co-op program during a formal induction ceremony that honored both individual excellence and the enduring legacy of experiential education.

The 14th annual Professional Practice Hall of Fame was especially meaningful, as OPP honored exceptional alumni and celebrated the induction of the inaugural GEARE cohort. This marked the first time GEARE alumni were recognized, highlighting the growing impact of both the Cooperative Education and GEARE programs in preparing students for career success and strengthening ties with industry.

Top row from left to right: Angie Martin, Andre Luyckx, Ted Tharpe, Kunal Sethy
Bottom row from left to right: Steve Downer, Patricia "Patty" Sorenson
Not pictured: Alicia Gardner. Thomas "Tom" Clement

The multi-day celebration featured a Q&A panel where inductees reflected on their co-op experiences at Purdue, sharing how those opportunities shaped their professional journeys and opened doors to successful careers.

A highlight of the event was the posthumous induction of Thomas "Tom" Clement, ME '58, Purdue's first-ever co-op student. Seventy years ago, Clement became the first student to participate in the program that would become a cornerstone of experiential education at Purdue. His legacy lives on not only through his engineering accomplishments, but also through the transformative co-op model he helped establish. This model continues to empower students to connect academics with real-world impact.

The formal induction ceremony brought together families, co-op coordinators, students, alumni, and distinguished faculty to celebrate the newest members of the Hall of Fame. Inductees shared inspiring stories of growth, innovation, and success, all of which serve as powerful reminders of the lasting value of co-op at Purdue.

Congratulations once again to this year's Professional Practice Hall of Fame inductees. The Office of Professional Practice and Purdue University are honored to recognize your contributions during this landmark 70th year of Cooperative Education.

College of Engineering staff are honored to celebrate your remarkable contributions to the co-op legacy.

Three members of the inaugural GEARE cohort were present during the induction ceremony. From left to right: Eckhard Groll and GEARE alumni Katie Boor Ramos, Kevin Hess, and David Bowes. Not pictured: Sam Frank, Michael Radovanovic, Anna Kuhn Wild

2025 HALL OF FAME // INDUCTEES

Thomas "Tom" Clement (ME '58)

First Co-op Student at Purdue University

Tom Clement completed a five-session co-op with Ford Motor Company beginning in 1953, becoming Purdue's first-ever co-op student while earning his BS in Mechanical Engineering in 1958. His co-op experience included work in R&D and engine design, contributing to early innovations that shaped modern automotive systems. Tom continued his career at Ford and helped pioneer Purdue's Cooperative Education Program, laying the foundation for 70 years of industry-integrated learning.

Alicia Gardner (CHE '01)

Vice President & Franchise Lead Covid-19, Genentech

Alicia completed a five-session co-op with Hoffmann-La Roche in Nutley, NJ, before earning her BS in Chemical Engineering from Purdue in 2001. She later received her MBA from Harvard Business School. Alicia currently serves as the Lifecycle Leader for COVID-19 at Genentech, a member of the Roche Group. Her prior roles include Vice President of Product Strategy in Roche's Canadian Pharmaceutical division and International Business Leader at Roche's global headquarters in Basel, Switzerland.

Throughout her career, Alicia has been a strong advocate for mentorship and equity in the workplace, participating in Roche's women's professional groups and supporting efforts to develop future leaders. She credits Purdue and her co-op experience for laying the foundation of her global career in the pharmaceutical industry.

Kunal Sethy- (EE '04)

2X Startup Founder, Entrepreneur, Advisor & CEO

Kunal completed a five-session co-op with General Electric and graduated from Purdue with a BS in Electrical Engineering in 2004. He spent nearly a decade with GE Healthcare, where he led product launches, lean initiatives, and quality improvement across facilities in the U.S., Mexico, and Germany. He managed a $150M portfolio of bedside monitoring products and peripherals.

Over the last 20 years, Kunal has dedicated his career to reducing health disparities in underserved populations. He is a three-time startup founder, including Gaja Health, a company focused on delivering software and services to Community Health Centers. His entrepreneurial work continues to drive innovation in healthcare access, inspired by the technical foundation built during his time at Purdue and GE.

Angie Martin (CE '91)

Chief Sustainability & Innovation Officer, Heritage Environmental Services

Angie completed five co-op sessions with Heritage Environmental Services in Indianapolis, IN, while pursuing her BS in Civil Engineering at Purdue. Her early co-op experiences in environmental sampling and emergency response—including her involvement in the 1990 BASF chemical plant explosion—sparked a lifelong passion for environmental and disaster management.

Now the Chief Sustainability and Innovation Officer at Heritage Environmental Services, Angie has 36 years of experience in emergency response and waste solutions. She frequently advises government agencies and serves in key leadership roles with national trade organizations such as the Environmental Technology Council, Spill Control Association of America, and EPA's e-Manifest Advisory Board. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in 13 states and a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager.

Andre Luyckx (ME '83)

Retired VP of Upstream Digital Transformation, Former ExxonMobil

Andre completed five co-op sessions with Pratt & Whitney and American Thermoplastics, while earning his BS in Mechanical Engineering at Purdue.

He spent 17 years with ExxonMobil, where he rose to Vice President of Upstream Digital Transformation. His leadership roles included oversight of drilling operations in Canada, the U.S., and the Asia Pacific, as well as serving as Drilling Operations Manager and Global Production Operations Manager. Andre also served as Managing Director of Adriatic LNG, where he oversaw Italy's first offshore liquefied natural gas terminal. His global career reflects the leadership skills and technical excellence cultivated during his time as a co-op student.

Ted Tharp (CHE '98)

Associate Director of Operations Science & Technology, AbbVie

Ted completed a five-session co-op with TetraTech EMI while pursuing his BS in Chemical Engineering at Purdue, graduating in 1998. He began his career at Eli Lilly, where he spent 12 years in leadership roles within Freeze Dry Operations and Parenteral Science & Technology. He went on to Novartis and later joined AbbVie, where he currently serves as Associate Director of Parenteral Science & Technology.

Ted remains highly engaged with Purdue, mentoring students, speaking in the classroom, and leading industry-focused study abroad programs. In 2024, he helped launch a study abroad trip to Ireland for students pursuing a Pharmaceutical Manufacturing certificate, coordinating visits to AbbVie and sharing his expertise through hands-on learning.

Steve Downer (ME '96)

Vice President, Amazon

Steve completed five co-op rotations with General Electric in Louisville and a summer internship at GE Power and Water in San Jose before graduating from Purdue with a BS in Mechanical Engineering in 1996. He began his career in GE's technical leadership program and advanced to become General Manager for Global Products, Air & Water.

Steve later joined Amazon, where he serves as Vice President overseeing U.S. Category Management, Worldwide Technology and Product Management, and several other global business units. He is also Vice Chair of the Consumer Technology Association. Steve's career spans operations, innovation, and digital transformation, shaped by his early co-op experience and commitment to leadership development.

Patricia "Patty" Sorenson (MSE '93)

Associate Director of Global Performance Excellence, PG Technologies

Patricia completed six co-op rotations with Praxair Surface Technologies while earning her BS in Materials Science and Engineering from Purdue in 1993. She began her career at Rolls Royce Allison as a Failure Analysis Engineer and completed her MBA from the University of Indianapolis in 1998.

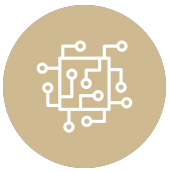
Over the years, she has held numerous leadership roles at Praxair (now Linde), including Six Sigma Black Belt, Operations Manager, and Financial Planning and Analysis Manager. Her expertise spans project management, process improvement, and operations leadership. In her most recent role as Flagship Project Manager, she led the implementation of Oracle Manufacturing and Quality systems. Patricia's commitment to continuous improvement and team development reflects the foundation built during her formative co-op years.

CAREER EXPLORATION & INDUSTRY PREPARATION //

ENGR 103 COURSES

FYE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This course is available to First-Year Engineering students and aims to prepare students for successful co-op or internship experiences. In the course, students will develop a resume, cover letter, elevator pitch, interview skills and a LinkedIn profile. They will have the opportunity to connect with engineering student mentors who have already gained professional experience and will hear from several industry speakers on topics such as building a professional networking, creating effective working relationships and more. *Offered in the Fall.*



CHANGING THE WORLD WITH CHIPS

This course will introduce students to semiconductor technology and the broad range of opportunities within the semiconductor industry. Speakers from some of the largest companies in the world including Apple, ASML, Intel and others will engage students on a weekly basis. Topics covered include logic microprocessors, sustainable manufacturing processes, auto industry, digital healthcare technology, memory technology and more. *Offered in the Fall & Spring.*

SMART CITIES

This course will introduce students to the technology and innovation that impacts the future of our communities. Topics include space habitats, electrification of roadways, the design and inspection of infrastructure, environmental disasters and public health, automation systems for buildings and more. Speakers from companies such as SpaceX, Collins Engineers, Thornton Tomasetti, and others will guest-lecture on how technology and innovation will impact the way we live. Students in this course will develop their personal networks while being presented with resources and opportunities to prepare for exciting careers. *Offered in the Fall.*

DEFENSE & SECURITY

The United States Departments of Energy, Defense, and Homeland Security play important roles in ensuring the security of our nation. These agencies ensure safety in transportation security environments; organize, deploy, and supply our military; maintain stewardship of our nuclear arsenal and more. This course will feature speakers from various institutions, including the Air Force Research Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, and the National Security Agency. Topics include quantum computing for national security, cyber-physical systems in critical infrastructure and more. *Offered in the Fall.*

ENGINEERING IN PUBLIC SERVICE

There is a great need for technical know-how within local government, federal government, and government agencies. This course will introduce a wide range of career opportunities for engineers within the public sector, while engaging with guest speakers on interesting topics. Students will build their network and learn about opportunities to develop skills for successful careers impacting U.S. policy. Students taking this course will have earned credit toward the new certificate program. *Offered in the Spring.*

PHARMA CAREERS & DRUG DEVELOPMENT

This course will serve to enhance career development across various sectors of the pharma industry. Students will learn from industry professionals at Lilly, Merck, AstraZeneca, Novartis and others. Weekly seminars will provide industry knowledge and help build professional development skills to prepare students for internships, co-ops and full-time jobs. *Offered in the Spring.*

SILICON VALLEY & THE TECH INDUSTRY

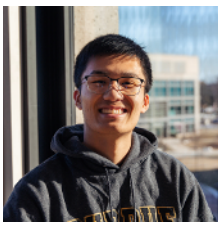
This course will serve to enhance students professional development and prepare course participants for careers in the tech industry and Silicon Valley. This is an embedded spring semester course with travel over spring break to network with employers and Purdue alumni in Silicon Valley. Students will complete assignments to enhance their professional skills and have the benefit of hearing from several industry speakers to develop an understanding of how to successful compete for opportunities in the tech industry. *Offered in the Spring.*

BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND CAREERS THROUGH ENGR 103 COURSES //

Ryan Sheikholeslami

Rising CMPE Sophomore - West Lafayette

"Intro to Engineering to Professional Development didn't just help me discover my career path—it showed me how to navigate it with purpose. It gave me the industry insight and preparation I needed to confidently work toward success in engineering."



David Chin

Rising BME Sophomore - Indy

"ENGR 103: Professional Development equipped me with the essential skills and confidence to effectively engage with industry professionals, sharpen my networking abilities, and clearly articulate my academic goals. This course was pivotal in helping me secure valuable opportunities and set the foundation for my engineering career."

Eighteen Purdue students traveled to Ireland over spring break as part of the **Pharmaceutical Manufacturing in Ireland study abroad program**, organized by the Office of Professional Practice. This immersive experience blended academic exploration with cultural enrichment, giving students a direct look into one of the world's leading pharmaceutical manufacturing hubs while discovering Ireland's rich history and traditions.

The Office of Professional Practice brought 30 students from Purdue's West Lafayette and Indianapolis campuses to **Silicon Valley** for a transformative industry trek. As part of Cohort #4, students visited 10 leading companies to explore emerging technologies and innovation in action. Highlights included touring Apple Park, walking the halls of Google, and connecting with Purdue alumni working in some of the most influential tech firms in the country.

OPP led 15 students to Washington, D.C. for the inaugural **STEM in the Public Sector study away program**. The trip included visits to national landmarks such as the National Mall, Arlington National Cemetery, and the White House, along with engaging sessions at the NobleReach Foundation, U.S. Department of Transportation, Capitol Hill with Representative Jim Baird's staff, Microsoft, the Pentagon, and more. Students gained valuable insight into how STEM intersects with public policy and national service.

GRADUATING // TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Marek Gibson
Aeronautical & Astronautical Engineering

Industry Experience
Cummins, Inc., Rolls-Royce

Achievements & Involvements
PPA Vice President, Cooperative Education and Internship Association's Co-op Student of the Year

Full Time Role
Rolls-Royce

Sandra Bern
Mechanical Engineering

Industry Experience
Caterpillar Inc., OST Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences

Achievements & Involvements
President of GEARE Ambassadors, ME Undergraduate Research Fellow

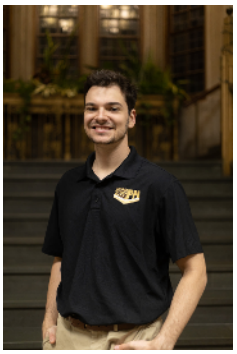
Full Time Role
Schneider Electric

Grace Olden
Mechanical Engineering

Industry Experience
Lockheed Martin

Achievements & Involvements
GEARE Ambassadors

Full Time Role
Lockheed Martin



Colin Estes
Chemical Engineering

Industry Experience
Lubrizol, Evonik, Ramboll

Achievements & Involvements
Former President of PPA Ambassadors

Full Time Role
Rovisys

Cat Bradley
Chemical Engineering

Industry Experience
Sandia National Labs

Achievements & Involvements
Former President of GEARE Ambassadors, Research Assistant at Zucrow Labs

Full Time Role
Graduate Studies at Purdue University

Dilya Algun
Electrical Engineering

Industry Experience
TSMC AZ, STARS, SURF

Achievements & Involvements
Co-Founder and Former Secretary, Advisor & Vice President of Semiconductor Student Alliance

Full Time Role
TSMC AZ

Jarrett Corneil
Electrical Engineering

Industry Experience
Daimler, Rolls-Royce

Achievements & Involvements
PPA Ambassadors, EPICS

Full Time Role
Rolls-Royce

Nico Garcia-Brosa
Industrial Engineering

Industry Experience
GABC, FCC Construccion, Neuster Health, Cynteract GmbH

Achievements & Involvements
GEARE Mentor

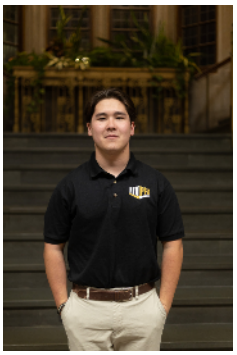
Full Time Role
Morton Salt

Isabel Hoppe
Electical Engineering

Industry Experience
Rolls-Royce

Achievements & Involvements
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Full Time Role
Rolls-Royce



Aden Hurd
Electrical Engineering

Industry Experience
General Stamping & Metalworks, Daimler Truck North America

Achievements & Involvements
Purdubik's Cube Guiness Book of World Record Holder, Purdue Grand Prix, PPA Ambassadors

Full Time Role
General Motors

Kaitlyn Mansfield
Chemical Engineering

Industry Experience
AstraZeneca, SABIC, Reckitt, Merck

Achievements & Involvements
WIE Mentor, Higher Ground Dance Company, SWE

Full Time Role
Merck

James Mock
Chemical Engineering

Industry Experience
Cleveland-Cliffs, Intel

Achievements & Involvements
Undergraduate Energetics Research Assistant, P2SAC

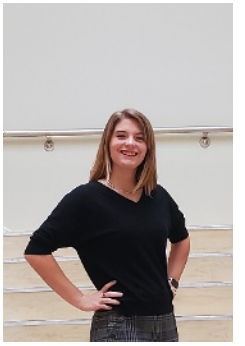
Full Time Role
BP

Emily Barone
Biomedical Engineering

Industry Experience
Catalent Biologics, Eli Lilly & Co.

Achievements & Involvements
President of PPA Ambassadors, Tour Guide for BME

Full Time Role
Eli Lilly & Co.



Ali Steele
Biomedical Engineering

Industry Experience
DePuy Synthes, Fort Wayne Metals

Achievements & Involvements
Volunteering Director for PPA Ambassadors, American Society for Engineering & Education's Intern Student of the Year, Undergraduate Research Assistant

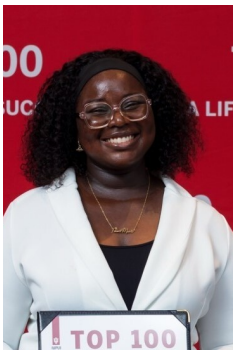
Full Time Role
Graduate Studies at the University of Galway, Ireland

Luke Stohler
Biomedical Engineering

Industry Experience
Stark Neurosciences Research Institute, Kimball Electronics, Eli Lilly & Co.

Achievements & Involvements
Biomedical Engineering Society & University College Student Council at Formerly IUPUI

Full Time Role
MED Institute Inc.



Pearl-Marie Andoh
Biological Engineering

Industry Experience
Eli Lilly

Achievements & Involvements
Golden Hammer Award, NSBE president, resident assistant, BME undergraduate research assistant, (IN)SCRIBE Scholar, math tutor, undergraduate summer research intern at the IU School of Medicine

Full Time Role
Abbott

Nakul Sharma
Mechanical Engineering

Industry Experience
Eli Lilly, Lumax World, Lekha Advertising and Marketing

Achievements & Involvements
Golden Hammer Award, peer consultant for CCO, IUI parking services costumer service specialist

Full Time Role
Eli Lilly

Undergraduate Teaching Assistants continuing into 2025-2026

Evan Carr
Kai Ze Ee
Olivia Holley
Megan Earp
Kat Grube
Ellie Jones
Mark O'Donnell
Joey Pelletier
Brooke Yorio
Kasandra Rea-Padilla
Kate Riehle
Maithili Upadhyay
Rodger Langley
Konnor Parsley
Mathew Cannon
Layla Heffelmire

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT // SCHOLARSHIPS

$195,180 AWARDED TO SUPPORT STUDENTS IN WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING

LEONARD E. WOOD SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2007, this scholarship honors the memory of the late Leonard E. Wood. Wood received his PhD from Purdue University in 1956 and subsequently joined the faculty as a Professor of Civil Engineering. He then became the School of Civil Engineering's Faculty Coordinator for Purdue's Cooperative Education Program in 1989, a role he continued in until his untimely death in 2004. The scholarship fund exists thanks to a generous donation from Professor Wood's widow, Margaret, who sought to honor his dedication to the co-op program while enabling the achievement of today's students. The Leonard E. Wood Scholarship for Cooperative Education is awarded to deserving Co-op students based on academic merit and life-changing experiences brought about by the Co-op program. Cooperative education never had a greater friend, supporter or promoter, and no one better exemplified the co-op value of practical education as a mentor, counselor and teacher.

Ali Steele (BME) Mitchell Bolen (NE)

WILLIAM C. & LINDA E. NELSON SCHOLARSHIP

William and Linda Nelson have been long-standing generous supporters of Purdue's Co-op program. William (Bill) is a 1974 Chemical Engineering graduate from Purdue University. A year later, he earned his Master's in Chemical Engineering. Having over 40 years of industry experience, Bill has received many awards to honor his accomplishments. Bill was inducted into the 2013 Cooperative Education Hall of Fame and was also honored as a 2017 Outstanding Chemical Engineer by Purdue University. An endowment fund was established by Bill and Linda for the creation of annual scholarships for co-op students. Additionally, incentive grants for instructors offering on-campus and/or online courses for co-op students have been generated.

Olivia Holley (CHE) Daniel Eaton (CHE) Kamran Hajibayli (CHE)
Loudin Rodriguez (CHE) Cat Bradley (CHE) David Sixon (CHE)

OPP IMPACT AND EMPLOYER-SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

The Office of Professional Practice has awarded the students listed below with $500 scholarships through the generous support of employers and alumni. Employers are able to help students remember and recognize their company through assisting them with their education and sponsoring one of these scholarships. The OPP Impact scholarship is supported by various Co-op/GEARE alumni contributions and is awarded yearly. These awards are given to OPP students who demonstrate excellence and involvement in work-integrated learning.

Eryk Chazares (ABE)
Aytaj Aslani (IE)
Emily Barone (BME)
Allison Biewenga (IE)
Abhinay Dixit (ME)
Kalaya Sriver (CCE)
Mary Earp (EE)
Catherine Gemrich (BME)
Katarina Grube (MSE)
Christina Lumpp (AAE)
Margaret Heritage (AAE)
Elizabeth Jones (CCE)
Jacob Retek (ME)
Edgar Suryadi (MET)
Olivia Zhang (ME)
Blake Wilson (AAE)
Serim Cheon (ATT)
Leo Janert (EE)
Kenneth Shen (ME)
Nathan Petrucci (BME)

INAUGURAL CO-OP AND INTERN OF THE YEAR AWARD

In May, OPP was thrilled to announce the winners of our inaugural Co-op & Intern of the Year Awards. These awards recognize students who made significant contributions in the workplace and demonstrated how their work-integrated learning experience meaningfully advanced their academic and professional growth.

- Thendra Kamal was named Purdue's 2024 Co-op Student of the Year for completing a three-semester co-op at Delta TechOps in Atlanta, where her impact spanned critical engineering solutions, organizational leadership, and high-level collaboration.
- Jason Packard was named Purdue's 2024 Intern of the Year for his role in a NASA project focused on building lunar outposts for long-term human space presence.

Thendral Kamal (AAE)

Jason Packard (ChE)

CO-OP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT //
ELLEN VAN DAELE

For Ellen Van Daele, Purdue's co-op program didn't just supplement her mechanical engineering education, it helped define her career path. After graduating in December 2022, Van Daele moved into consulting, but credits the hands-on, real-world experience she gained through the Office of Professional Practice (OPP) for shaping both her personal and professional growth.

"I feel like I gained so much, and it was such an important part of my Purdue experience," Van Daele said. "It allowed me to feel what a potential job in these different fields was going to be like. You can study the technical pieces and develop as an engineer in the classroom, but until you're there, working with people, doing the job yourself, you don't really know what it's like."

Van Daele completed five co-op rotations across a variety of industries, including roles at ExxonMobil, Boeing, EY-Parthenon, and Honda. She appreciated the opportunity to explore multiple pathways before committing to a post-graduation career.

"It let me explore and try out different aspects of engineering," she said. "It also helped me figure out what I didn't want to do."

The hands-on exposure also reinforced the value of classroom learning by grounding it in industry relevance. **"It just provides that bit of tactical evidence of what you're working toward in the classroom," she said. "Sometimes it's easy to get deep into all your core classes, but it helped me have perspective—what am I doing all that learning for? It's really to go out there and work in the industry."**

In addition to her industry rotations, Van Daele was actively involved in the Office of Professional Practice. She served as a Teaching Assistant for the ENGR 103: FYE Professional Development course through OPP for three years, eventually becoming a lead TA.

"My time working at OPP was huge for me. It was fun to get involved. I saw the office grow and evolve a lot. I started TA'ing a group of 10-20 students and then became a lead TA managing a class of 300. It gave me ownership and leadership skills."

She also served as President of the Professional Practice Ambassadors (PPA), a student organization closely tied to OPP, where she helped raise awareness about the benefits of co-op among her peers. "The leadership and community I found around the co-op program at Purdue were really big for me," she said. "I just felt so connected. It gave me a real sense of community and a place to be at Purdue. I made a lot of friends and developed as a leader."

Now an Associate at Boston Consulting Group, Van Daele credits her co-op experiences for helping her bridge her engineering background with her consulting career. **"Now at BCG I'm a management consultant, so I'm not really doing anything technical anymore," she said. "But my co-op journey showed me that was the right path. Everything I enjoyed in engineering aligned with consulting, teamwork, and strategic thinking."**

She plans to take a leave from BCG to pursue an MBA at London Business School, with the goal of returning to the firm to work on retail, fashion, and luxury operations.

To current Purdue students considering the co-op path, Van Daele encourages exploration: **"Stay open-minded. Try different things, even in different fields... I think that's why I'm so happy with my decision now, because I tried the things I had questions about."**

GEARE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
APOORVA KALASKAR

Apoorva Kalaskar's undergraduate experience at Purdue was defined by his involvement in the Global Engineering Alliance for Research and Education (GEARE) program, which combined international study, internship experience, and language immersion into one comprehensive pathway.

"GEARE was a good middle ground," Kalaskar said. "Yes, it was academic, but it was also a great social thing for me."

Kalaskar joined GEARE during his first year and began taking German language courses right away. By junior year, he was studying abroad in Germany and completing an internship at Kautex Textron, where he worked on manufacturing and process development projects.

"That semester abroad was amazing," he said. "We had German students waiting for us, and they had their own GEARE network. We did all these activities and events with them as well."

Kalaskar also completed work-integrated learning experiences in both India and the United States, which helped develop a global mindset and technical versatility. Upon returning to campus, he became President of the GEARE program, mentoring peers and supporting the next generation of global engineers.

In his leadership role, Kalaskar helped strengthen the GEARE student community by supporting programming, encouraging cross-cultural collaboration, and sharing his experiences with students interested in international opportunities. The program not only shaped his technical understanding but also gave him a clearer sense of how to apply his skills on a global stage.

His participation in GEARE complemented a wide range of campus involvement, including Boiler Gold Rush, EPICS, Purdue Solar Racing, and Purdue Grand Prix, all of which broadened his perspective and taught him how to lead both in and out of the classroom. These experiences helped prepare him to adapt quickly to diverse work environments and pursue emerging fields like robotics.

After earning his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 2019, Kalaskar pursued a master's in mechanical engineering (controls and robotics) at the University of Washington. His interest in robotics, sparked at Purdue, has led to roles at Amazon Robotics, Hai Robotics, and now Lucid Motors.

"Your major shouldn't decide your career or your first job," he said. "Be as broad as you can. You can always learn new things and transfer skills."

Kalaskar credits Purdue and GEARE with teaching him not only how to solve complex technical problems, but also how to navigate cross-cultural collaboration. **"Immerse yourself in the culture locally... That is what gives you that sort of background on how to approach the learning in that country, how to approach the work, and how to approach problem solving."**

GET INVOLVED //
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

GEARE Ambassadors serve to advance the GEARE brand to students, alumni and employers, while improving students' overall GEARE program experience. They also promote global opportunities for Purdue engineering students through internships, study abroad programs and other worldwide programs. Through the numerous social and professional events they hold throughout the academic year, including resume reviews, global research panels and tote bag painting sessions, they have aided in the growth and development of the GEARE program.

Professional Practice Ambassadors (PPA) is a student organization with members who have a shared experience in work-integrated learning. PPA includes co-op students that seek to enhance the awareness and experience of the co-op program at Purdue. PPA act as delegates to the Office of Professional Practice in promoting OPP programs to prospective students, assisting with recruitment events and interacting with industry partners. They hold programs and events of their own such as PPA Networking Night, ENGR 103 Mentorship Programs and various social activities.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Phillip Dunston, Director

Joe Tort, Managing Director

Jenny Strickland, Assistant Director, Cooperative Education & Career Readiness

Patrick Francis, Former Assistant Director, Employer Engagement

Katrin Danielson, Assistant Director (Purdue in Indianapolis), Co-op Programs & Student Development

Jermaine Williams Jr., Ph.D, Assistant Director, CS Internships & Student Development for Purdue in Indianapolis

Barb Albrecht, Employer Information Specialist

Tina Alsup, Student Information Specialist

Julie Peretin, Professional Practice Programs Administrator

Gabriel Rios-Rojas, Assistant Professor, Global Engineering

Heather Fabriès, Global Co-op Specialist/GEARE Manager

Kimberly Graham, Pharma Co-op & Lilly Scholars Program Manager

Sophie Tung, Semiconductor Co-op Program Manager

Sue Bayley, Public Service Co-op and Internship Manager

Akash Patil, Former Graduate Assistant, Intercultural Learning & Milestones

Alejandro Benítez De la Riva, Graduate Assistant, Milestones

Merin Manoj, Former Graduate Assistant,

Lucy Wagner, Former Graduate Assistant, Communications

Margaret Mowrer, Former Undergraduate Communications Specialist

Johnnay Johnson, Undergraduate Communications Specialist

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Office of Professional Practice

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