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EE 494

**General Education Reflection**

 My goal in life ever since my senior year in high school has been to graduate from Iowa State University with a degree in electrical engineer. While at Iowa State I refined that dream to specifically graduating with a degree in electrical engineering with an emphasis in power systems. My dream job would now be working with utility scale wind turbines here in Iowa. I believe the way that America generates power now is in need of change from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Throughout my education here at Iowa State I have learned that a large scale change will be difficult to say the least but I feel the challenge needs to be meet and I want to help in any way I can. It has been proven that we are polluting the environment with our current method of electricity generation and I believe that it is our generations duty to start changing to protect future generations from our mistakes.

 My general education classes here at Iowa State have helped me to consider other viewpoints about society. In my Catholic Social Thought course I learned about many of the Catholic’s views on current social issues. To my surprise I learned that Pope Francis is calling all Catholics and anyone who will listen to take better care of the environment. He is leading the way in teaching people how to live lives focused on sustainability and protecting the natural environment around them. The Catholic faith dictates that we are the stewards of the wonderful creation that God made for us and it is or duty to protect and sustain that.

Taking Philosophy classes, I learned about how many different viewpoints people can have on a subject. We started one class with a simple question of do you know anything? I was surprised that we could spend a whole semester discussing different opinions on how we can prove we are knowledgeable beings. Hearing all these different viewpoints showed me how hard it is to get the general public as whole to think the same way. I may think wind turbines are the answer to clean energy but there are plenty of people who strongly disagree. I learned that a large part of an engineer’s career is not only innovating and designing new things but being able to present and convince others that their ideas and innovations are the way to move forward.

Finally, throughout several classes I have grown in the knowledge that society takes a long time to change. I may create or have a way to change the world in a positive way but if I cannot present the ideas in a proper format or effective way society will not change. Being able to communicate my technical ideas in a way that can cause positive change is the real challenge of most engineering problems. I believe Iowa State University has help me to consider all of these complex problems and given me a more realistic view on implementing an engineering solution in the world.