MICHIGANDER SCHOLARS PROGRAM · WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY · COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

A few things worth remembering when you leave this room.

Your engineering degree gets you in the door. What happens next depends on how you use your brain once you're in the room.

The obvious path is usually crowded.

Automotive, aerospace, and semiconductor are fine industries. They're also where most engineering students are already looking. Banks, hospitals, universities, logistics companies, and agricultural operations all need engineering minds, and most of those rooms aren't crowded yet.

Your brain travels with you even when the plan doesn't.

The best careers rarely follow the original script. What stays constant isn't the destination. It's the way you think. Stay curious about the problem in front of you, wherever you land.

Ask the question nobody has asked yet.

Every field has a gap. A problem nobody has framed correctly, a question the literature hasn't answered, an inefficiency everyone accepts as normal. That gap is an invitation. Train yourself to notice it and take action.

Don't take the easy path.

The highest offer, the most recognizable company name, the path of least resistance. These aren't automatically the right choices. Be intentional about what you say yes to.

THE BEST ADVICE I EVER GOT

"I don't care what you do. Just make sure you like it, because you're going to do it for a long time."

A few things worth reading and watching

TED Talk	The squiggly career — Sarah Ellis & Helen Tupper (why the career ladder is obsolete)
TED Talk	The surprising habits of original thinkers — Adam Grant
TED Talk	Highlight your ability, not your experience — Jason Shen
Book	Range by David Epstein — why generalists win in a world obsessed with specialization

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