

**College of Engineering**

Gellersen Center

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«letterdate»

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Hello «firstname»,

Congratulations on your acceptance into Valpo’s College of Engineering! My choice to attend Valpo is definitely one that promises life-changing opportunities. My name is Elizabeth Fuhrman, and I graduated from Valpo in 2007 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Since then, I have enjoyed working at Stryker for nearly 8 years. Stryker is one of the world’s leading medical technology companies and has achieved tremendous growth as we strive to increase the value our products add to the health care industry.

So much about Valpo helped me achieve the career I have today. Valpo has brilliant people and outstanding opportunities that match your hard work and drive to succeed. A personal example is from my freshman year when I shared my travel history to Switzerland with Professor Eric Johnson, now Dean of the College of Engineering. He suggested looking into the newly created Valparaiso International Engineering Program (VIEP). It piqued my curiosity and, I am one of the first members of VIEP that began in Reutlingen, Germany.

Through this program, I visited 11 countries with amazing sites such as an active volcano in the southern Italian islands, an array of color in Barcelona, the history-filled Berlin, and the calm countryside of Germany. I was continuously placed in challenging opportunities which stretched me in ways I never imagined. Back on campus, students have numerous opportunities for personal growth through professional organizations, such as SWE, SAE, or IEEE, campus-focused organizations like Student Senate or University Council, or even career-focused opportunities, such as becoming a Resident Assistant or a tutor for students.

Valpo’s educational offerings are continuously honed to provide the best for the students. In the College of Engineering, there are many research programs that afford students insight into real-world engineering applications. Professor Palumbo’s solar research, Professor Tougaw’s nanotechnology, and Professor Will’s virtual reality are all examples of the research in which students have played a part, even back to my years in Gellersen. Additionally, in a recent visit to campus to participate in mock interviews, I learned of two new opportunities for current and future students. They are the Disney experience for engineers and biomechanics research with Professor Goehler.

Valpo’s Engineering leaders are aware of the ever-changing industries and world in which we live and they revise the programs to remain pertinent and offer effective updated courses to the students. Valpo also realizes that there is more than just classroom-education necessary for success. Valpo invests in programs such as the Career Center and tutoring programs to further the achievement of the students.

I encourage you to make the most of your Valpo experience. Get involved, accept the challenges, make an impact, and leave Valpo a better place for those who will follow you.

Sincerely,

**Elizabeth Fuhrman**

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