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What Drives You?

I thrive on bringing ideas to life and creating something from scratch. I enjoy diving into the arts like painting, dancing, and expressing my thoughts visually when words can't express them. But what truly excites me is the journey—the intricate details, messy stages of creation, and the satisfaction from overcoming obstacles. Like going through the ugly stages of painting and making art, I love working through the process in perfecting something and figuring out ways around challenges. I have a passion for learning and understanding the why and the how.

This drive is what drew me into engineering. Going through the design process to create solutions through technical drawings, 3D models, and applying subjects like art, calculus, and physics. At DTC, I expanded these skills into manufacturing composite parts, gaining hands-on experience with materials like carbon fiber, fiberglass, and resin. This experience has helped me build connections in aerospace and explore how composite materials are replacing traditional ones in industries such as sports, construction, and aerospace. Recently, I began an externship at Albany Engineered Composites, an aerospace company in Utah, where I've seen firsthand how these skills contribute to building aircraft for both commercial and defense sectors. It's been such an amazing experience to get involved in a field that I'm passionate about and taking steps into the aerospace industry.

At Davis Tech, I learned that challenges come with trying something new. Mistakes, like misaligning a layer, can mean redoing an entire project. Some tasks are tedious—like spending days block-sanding body filler for hours—but I've learned to appreciate the process. Instead of dwelling on mistakes, I see them as chances to improve. This mindset has taught me the value of asking questions and collaborating to understand the full process. The instructors, with industry experience in composites and aerospace, provide invaluable insights that deepen my understanding of manufacturing. Davis Tech has been the perfect place to grow my skillset.

I feel that I've learned so much from actually getting my hands dirty, being in a shop, and going through those failures. Technical education has allowed me to expand on concepts that I've learned in engineering and apply them to make something to industry standards. Not only constructing something conceptually in models but being able to use those models to produce a composite product that has various benefits compared to

traditional materials. It has broadened my view about emerging materials and gave me the technical background in the engineering career that I want to pursue in. It would let me know how technicians would build something that I designed and how different techniques and materials would benefit or drawback from the intended use. I am hoping to become an aerospace engineer and work on revolutionary aircraft. I hope to attend Utah State University and be involved in their heavy emphasis on aeronautics. They have great programs and research projects that correlate with the aerospace industry.