**AWARES Class of 2018-2019 Scripted Talks**

**Sarah Matthiesen**  
Title: Always

You will always be an engineer. Engineering is not just a career, but a way of thinking and you have been thinking this way for too long to go back. No matter what field you work in, you will always be an engineer, so why deny it: leverage it. In fact, other perspectives need engineering and engineering needs other perspectives. So leverage your unique background and use your engineering skills. I aim to leverage my position as an engineer and a woman to bring technical skills to underserved communities. In humanitarian work there is a saying that if you want to help a community, help its women. And who better to teach women technical skills than a woman with technical skills? By bringing the engineering mindset to underserved women they will be able to improve their own lives and communities, and they too will always be engineers.

**Madeline Otto**

Title: AWARES Scripted Talk

When I think of engineering, I think of innovation, problem solving, and exciting

inventions. I also picture the faces of old, white men in my textbooks. As a young girl, I always knew that more men were in STEM fields than women, but never thought too much about why, and figured that any kind of unequal treatment was a thing of the past.

Now that I am in the midst of an engineering education, it has become clear that this isn’t the case. While it can be frustrating to have to prove myself more than my male peers do in order to be taken seriously, I want to reverse that stigma.

While my reason for getting into engineering was to make a difference using my love for science, my reason for staying in this field is to increase diversity, and to try to set an example for future girls who want to pursue STEM careers.

It’s well established that the engineering realm could benefit from some diverse faces; from professors to peers to professionals in the industry, the faces that I see are predominately men. If the goal of engineering is to find innovative solutions to global problems, we need voices from the full spectrum of the population.

It took me a long time to find a mentor in my field with whom I could identify with, and I know if I persevere through the microaggressions and self-doubt, I could be that mentor to another young girl to say yes, I am a woman and yes, this is what an engineer looks like.

**Andi Garver**  
Title: Why Not?

WHY NOT Why not you? Why not this? Why not now?

What’ve you got to lose?  
Well, a lot actually... time, money, sanity...

There’s a lot of uncertainty in life right now. But wouldn’t you prefer that over a pre-packaged, cookie cutter, already-been-chewed kind of lifestyle? I mean, you used to love standing out from the crowd. So what happened?

Somewhere along the line, you started caring about everyone else’s agenda instead of your own. You let their spot in life affect how you perceived the success of yours. And when your timeline doesn’t seem to line up quite just right, you panic.

Why me? Why this? Why now? (Breathe)

Setbacks happen. They’re one of the few things in life that you’re guaranteed to face. What you have to remember though is no amount missteps or mistakes will be enough to keep you from where you are called to be.

You were made for something so much greater than this. Don’t you owe it to yourself to at least try to figure that out? You don’t have to have it all figured out. You don’t even have to have tomorrow figured out. What you do need to have is the faith to get there. The faith to keep working hard because one day, you will be certain and you will be so proud that you made it.

**Hannah Preston**

Title: Why might someone consider Food Science for a career?

Food scientists are the people behind the teams bringing new and interesting food products to life - a career that will always be around. Market trends and consumer preferences are dynamic and ever-changing, creating a continuous need for people with knowledge and passion in the food industry. Dozens of different pathways such as quality analysis, product development, and sensory perception allow for nearly anyone to find a specialization that interests them. In the process of fulfilling the customers’ desires, food scientists are able to use both creativity and scientific problem solving to make people around the world happy. Common job responsibilities including ideation, research, and technical problem solving use several different parts of the brain to create an immersive and satisfying career. Food science can be especially rewarding because the results of successful projects are tangible. Walking down an aisle at a local grocery store or turning on a television to find a product you helped create instills a unique sense of accomplishment and pride because food scientists know their efforts have brought joy to their consumers’ lives - even if it’s from something as simple as testing out the next new, bizarre Oreo flavor.

**Hannah Demetry**

Title: 1 Minute Scripted Talk

Early in my college career, as I struggled in my engineering courses during my first few semesters, I often asked myself “Why am I in engineering? Is it for job security? For a high income?” Shortly after, I met a professor at Ohio State, Dr. Greg Bixler, who is a co-founder of a humanitarian engineering organization that designs hand pumps for developing countries. He told me that across the world, handpumps break down every 6 months, forcing the people in those communities to return to their old, contaminated water source until the handpump can be fixed, which takes 30 days on average. Can you imagine this happening in America? No, because we have some of the best technology in the world. Greg said that 80% of the world’s technology is designed for 20% of the world’s population. Imagine what the impact could be if a small fraction of our American problem-solving abilities were directed towards these underserved populations.

After learning about this disparity, I came to the realization that by staying in engineering, I could help solve a problem instead of simply treating symptoms.

Now I don’t expect everyone to quit their jobs and move across the world to solve poverty. In fact, I am not even doing that myself, as I have accepted a full time position as a manufacturing engineer. However, the truth that is glaring at us is that we, as engineers, have a valuable skill to solve problems; specifically problems that can help others. Whether I apply that within my workplace or outside of it, I have stayed in engineering because of the great impact I can have by trying to solve the problems for groups of people that get overlooked by our profit-driven society.