



CECS CO-OP NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022

MESSAGE FROM TANNER DROWN

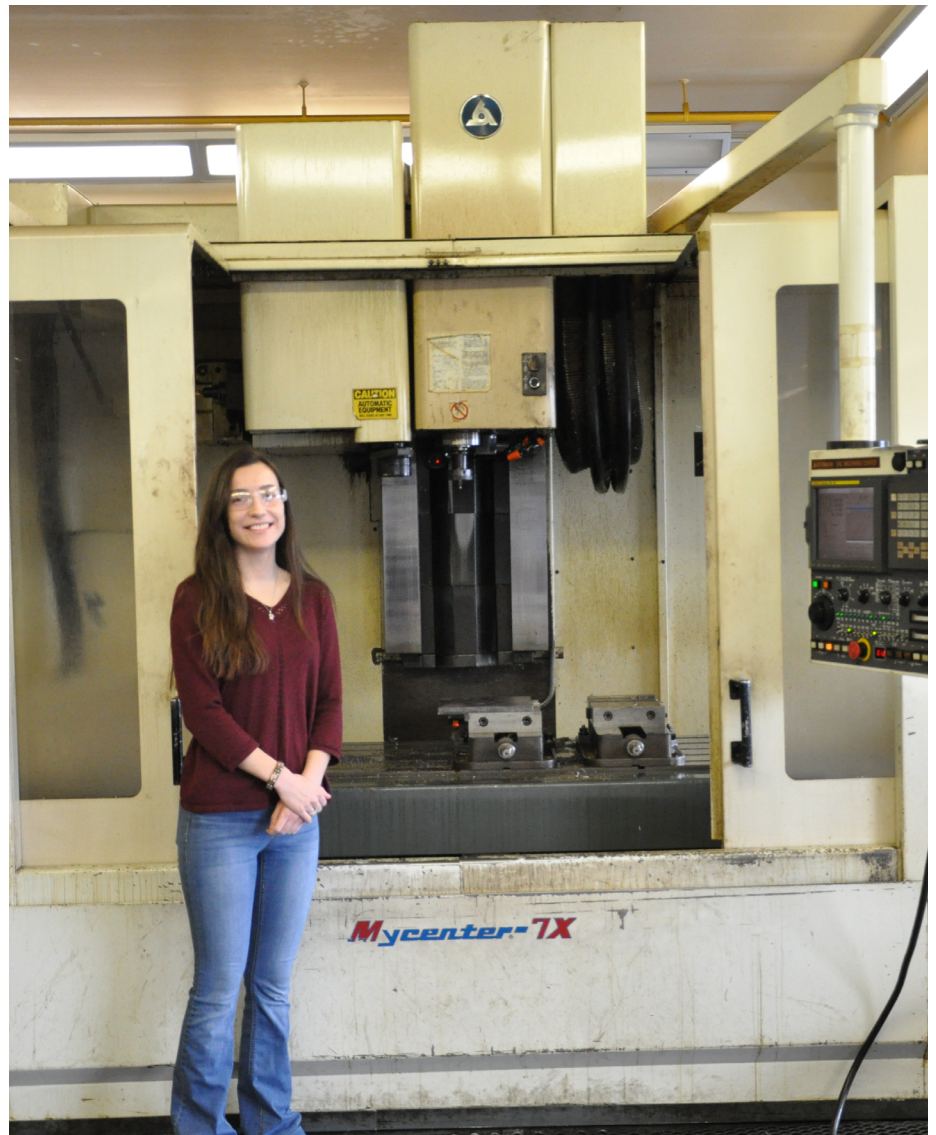
*Co-Op Coordinator for
College of Engineering and Computer Sciences*

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, post-COVID economic projections point to a need for a million more STEM professionals than the U.S. will produce. While the STEM fields can be among the most competitive, colleges and universities across the country are rapidly responding to these challenges...and Marshall University is no different.

Currently, our students experience rigorous academic training with hands on labs, ample research initiatives, state-of-the-art facilities, and capstone projects. Yet, nothing compares to the learning that occurs in real world settings. The mission of the Co-Op program is to create well-rounded students prepared to enter the workforce

In this newsletter, we have included our "Student of the Year" as well as our "Employer of the Year." Also included is information on all of our upcoming fall events in which we encourage you to participate in and support. We appreciate your involvement over the years and look forward to the future!

Tanner Drown, M.A.





CAMERON NICHOLS

Senior, Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
Hometown: Crum, WV
Two Co-Ops completed at CDI Engineering Solutions

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE?

The highlights of my time working as a coop have been the relationships I have created with employers, the projects I have completed in a team setting, and some as an individual. An example of this is the very first project I performed which was a small installation of level monitoring equipment that, on the surface, seemed straightforward but proved very tricky. The highlight to me was not the project and the associated solution but the process that taught me the persistence and thought process needed to be a successful engineer.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF BEING ENROLLED IN THE CO-OP CLASS? WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST BENEFICIAL ASSIGNMENT?

There are two main benefits to being enrolled as a coop. The first benefit is seeing "real life" or maybe a portion of the field you are studying hard to enter. It teaches you that perhaps the thing you were dead set on is not what you would want (i.e., design, management, etc.). The second benefit is networking with professionals that will not only mentor you but recommend you to further jobs in the future. I have always been a little apprehensive about networking at lunches or school-sponsored networking events. Although, in a work setting where you share a common goal and can show yourself as someone willing to learn, networking will become easier and much more natural. I have had two work assignments, the first with Special Metals and my current position with CDI engineering solutions. I can't say one was more beneficial than the other because the roles are different and provide different opportunities. For example, when I was with Special Metals, I was in a production engineer role where I would estimate work and be primary planning and supervision of said work. This differs from my current position with CDI, a detailed design engineering role; a little explanation would be that I use engineering principles to design power systems per NEC to complete whatever task is presented. Both experiences have been influential on my choice of the industry I want to enter when I leave Marshall and who I want to be as a professional.

HOW WILL YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE HELP WITH YOUR FUTURE CAREER? WHAT SKILLS HAVE YOU DEVELOPED FROM YOUR CO- OP WORK EXPERIENCE?

The work experiences in the coop program have shaped me in more ways than I can describe. It has helped me learn how to communicate professionally and what will be expected of me once I enter the engineering job market. I have become not only a better communicator, but the program has given me a way to transition the material I learn in class to an application that only further strengthens me as a student. There is a whole list of skills I have learned from my program, but the one that I can say is my most tremendous success is my communication skills have improved because I get put out of my comfort zone and am forced to push myself.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ASPECT OF MARSHALL UNIVERSITY?

My favorite part of Marshall is the small class size and that we deans and leadership are always open to hearing your questions and offering solutions. I never felt like I was a bother or couldn't go to my professor and ask for extra explanation or help. This, to me, is the best part of Marshall and a big part of my success in the electrical program and coop.



Employer: WVDOH

Pictured: From left to right-

Alan Reed, PE (burgundy shirt) - State Highway Engineer, WV Division of Highways

Natasha White - Human Resources Division Director, WV Division of Highways

Jimmy Wriston, PE - Secretary of Transportation/Commissioner of Highways



WHY DO YOU LIKE HIRING MARSHALL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS? WHAT COMMON MAJORS DO YOU SEE?

We know that Marshall University students are well educated, well trained and well qualified. We also know that Marshall University has an excellent engineering program. WVDOH sees the Civil Engineering discipline from Marshall apply the most. That is followed by the Mechanical discipline. Then, the Electrical student.

WHAT DOES A CO-OP EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR COMPANY LOOK LIKE? WHAT BENEFITS ARE THERE TO WORKING AS A STUDENT FOR YOUR COMPANY?

Working for the WVDOH offers the Co-Op real world experience. We offer insight to how our organization works. The experience gives Highways and the student an opportunity to evaluate interest in future full-time experience. Also, a DOH Co-Op is given extra consideration if they decide to join us full-time. They may also receive additional pay for their Co-Op when coming on permanently.

WHAT SKILLS DO YOU HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP?

The West Virginia Division of Highways helps a Co-Op student with analytical skills. The DOH also helps with their communication skills. WVDOH gives the student a real world feel on how an organizational team operates.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL WHO IS JUST GETTING STARTED IN THEIR CAREER?

We would advise a student to weigh the long term with the short term and not to focus just on the short term. We would recommend a student ask themselves, "Where do I want to be in the future?" and evaluate all aspects of that.



UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

- Employer Speaker Series (All Wednesday 11-2 in Shawkey)
 - September 7 WVDOH
 - September 21 Toyota
 - October 5 CDI Engineering Solutions
 - October 19 Steel of West Virginia (**in BE5)
 - October 26 Special Metals
 - November 9 USACE (Army Corps of Engineers)
- Career Fairs
 - October 5 3:00pm – 6:00pm
- Echo Event
 - September 21 10:00am - 2:00pm
- Etiquette Dinner
 - October 25 6:30pm – 8:00 pm
- Thanksgiving Break
 - November 21-25
- Last Exam Day
 - December 9
- Winter Commencement
 - December 10

LOOKING TO HIRE?

Register on Handshake to begin posting positions!
marshall.joinhandshake.com



Contact Us!
 304-696-5453
 ceccs@marshall.edu
www.marshall.edu/ceccs

