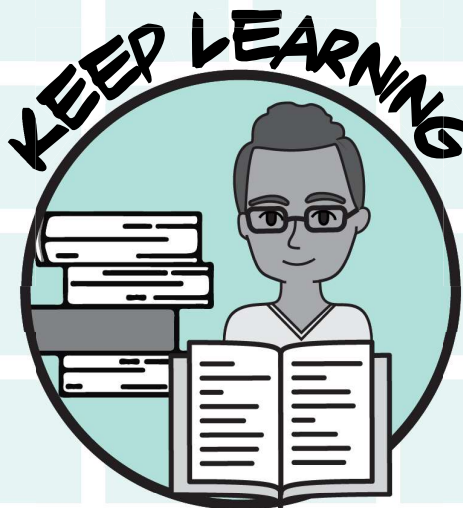
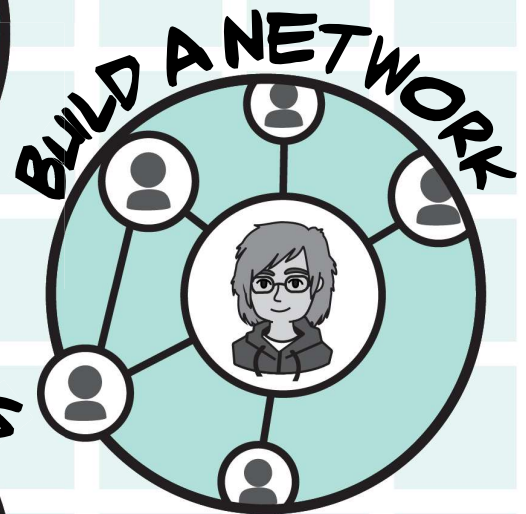


# SUCCESS STRATEGIES

## WORDS OF ADVICE FROM NEW ENGINEERS

The Capstone to Work (C2W) team studies students' experiences in the transition from capstone engineering design courses to the workplace.



Themes and advice come from more than 100 engineering graduates at four institutions.

# SUCCESS STRATEGIES

WORDS OF ADVICE FROM NEW ENGINEERS

## ASK QUESTIONS



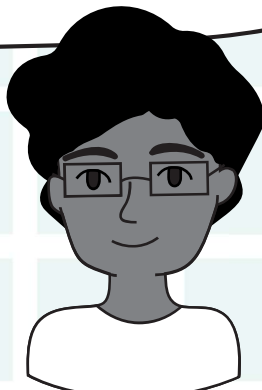
"Learn to  
**talk to other people  
to get information.**

Not everything is in a book."



"I have noticed that, if I make  
the effort to **ask the questions,**  
that often **my boss will** take note of it,  
**appreciate it.**

... It has  
**never been a waste of time  
to ask a question** in a meeting."



"Don't be afraid to  
**ask questions**  
and admit that,

"Hey, I don't know something."

... They **don't expect you  
to know everything** right  
off the bat."



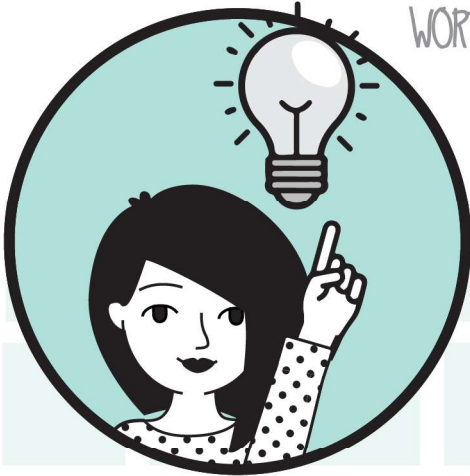
"Expect a really steep learning curve  
and ask questions.

**Don't be nervous  
about asking questions."**



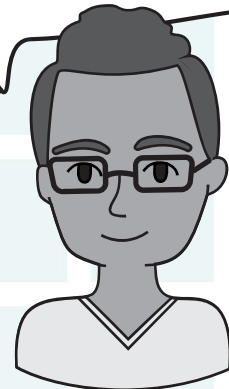
# SUCCESS STRATEGIES

WORDS OF ADVICE FROM NEW ENGINEERS

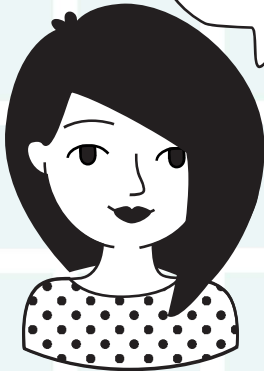


## TAKE INITIATIVE

"Going out  
and **trying to seek the answers**  
seems to be received  
a lot better than  
**acting like I know things**  
about things I don't."



"Focus on two big things:  
**showing initiative**  
and  
**communicating well.**"



"**Ask for the sort of  
work you want.**

... It took me a while to realize  
that I had that capacity to say,  
**'I'm interested in this.**  
If it comes up **let me know.'**"



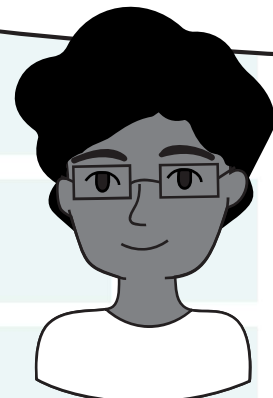
"**Take advantage  
of all the opportunities  
at work. ...**

**Even if it doesn't apply directly  
it's still learning  
something different."**



"**Show initiative**  
and a positive attitude working,

try to go above and beyond,  
**show that you care."**





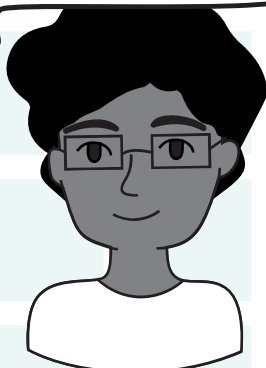
# SUCCESS STRATEGIES

WORDS OF ADVICE FROM NEW ENGINEERS



## PURSUE QUALITY

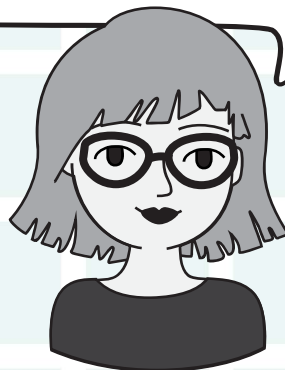
**"Take everything seriously,** you do even the little jobs, because it's **all a reflection of your work."**



**"Focus on quality** of work rather than deadlines, because in the working world, projects get delayed."



**"There is nothing that goes away when you finish it...**  
If you half ass something or it's close enough but not quite right,  
... it just comes back  
and you'll just have to fix it eventually  
so you should just do it right."



**"Make sure that you're doing your due diligence** in your projects and at work, because it does kind of **make a huge difference** in how people perceive you."



**"Being in a job is kind of like being in a class where the homework isn't graded,** or even collected.

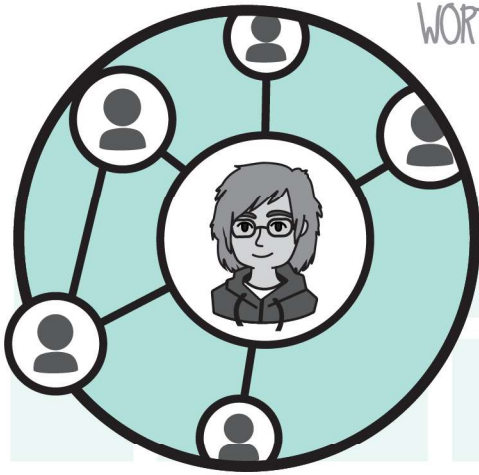
I mean, **you're basically expected to understand what you're doing,** and if you don't,  
... it's your own fault.

And all you're doing is hurting yourself."



# SUCCESS STRATEGIES

WORDS OF ADVICE FROM NEW ENGINEERS



## BUILD A NETWORK

**"Talk to as many engineers as you can."**

I think the **biggest transition** from being a 22-year-old college kid to a 22-year-old professional engineer is the maturity.

One of the **best ways** and easiest ways to mature is by **being around** and talking to **people** that are **in the profession.**"



**"Get to know the people at your work on an informal level and network with them."**



**"Keep an open mind."**

There are a lot of people out there that know a lot of stuff.

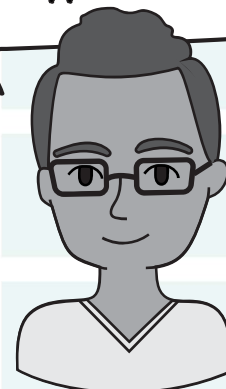
**Don't take anybody for granted.**

... I've talked to a lot of **operators and machinists** that have this idea of **engineers** always **talking down to them.**"



**"[Build a] group of people** where you can look for resources

and ... get to know how to just **communicate with** a lot of **people** from a lot of **different disciplines.**"



# SUCCESS STRATEGIES

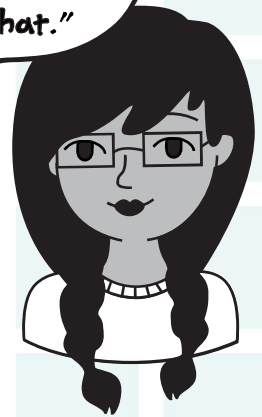
WORDS OF ADVICE FROM NEW ENGINEERS



## KEEP LEARNING

"be very spongesque  
with information absorption,

be able to retain that,  
and be able to apply that."



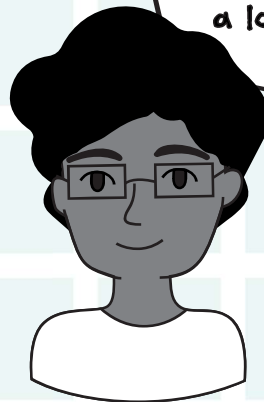
"It's gonna be a  
learning process.

... You can't expect to  
go into any job knowing what  
you're doing,  
especially as an engineer."



"You're just going to  
have to keep learning

...If I had been given that advice  
I think I would have been  
a lot less frustrated  
... going into this job."



"It's like a  
continuous fire hose...

There's always so much to be absorbed.

I think [in] two years, you should learn  
a lot,

but I don't think you can be  
an expert at anything  
until you're at least 40 and [have]  
done something for a while."



"Be prepared to not  
know anything.

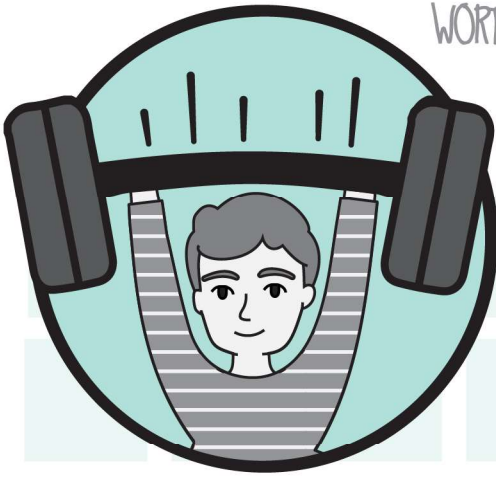
You're going to be taught new tools,  
you're going to be taught new concepts."



# SUCCESS STRATEGIES

WORDS OF ADVICE FROM NEW ENGINEERS

## GO ALL IN

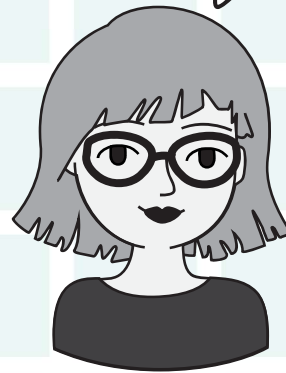


**"Give it your all**  
and be available as much as you can.  
Try to go beyond what's expected of you,  
because that will get you  
not only ahead, but that will also  
**set you up for success."**

**"You can be an ass%^&# at your job,**  
but you **have to be the very, very best.**

Or you can be **just okay** at your job,  
and just **show a willingness**  
**to learn.**

**You can do one or the other.**  
But you can't be like a stubborn ass%^&#  
and then only do an okay job."



**"You don't have to be right**  
**all the time,**  
as long as... you're **making**  
**the effort** and you're showing that  
you want to be right,  
and **you want**  
**to be doing well."**



**"Go in open-minded**  
and **willing to be taught.**

... People are much more receptive  
to someone that is  
**down to earth**  
and **excited to be there,**  
and that really just **wants to learn."**





# SUCCESS STRATEGIES

WORDS OF ADVICE FROM NEW ENGINEERS

## VALUE YOURSELF



"If you're excited about your job, good.  
**Stay excited** about it.

Don't get discouraged by not knowing things  
and **absorb as much  
as you can.**"



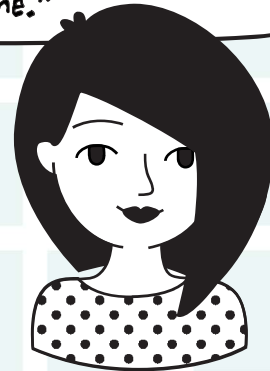
"There are gonna be good days  
and bad days,

**just let go of the  
bad days. ...**

Just kinda roll with the  
punches a little bit."



"You can **still be a good engineer**  
even though you **don't have much experience,**  
and that experience will come."



"It's really important to  
**take care of yourself  
outside of work...**

Take care of your health  
and your emotional well being.

... **Go to sleep on time."**



"Understand that **you have a** very  
**different mindset**  
... than some of the people  
that are 40 and 50 years old,  
so **figure out how to  
leverage yourself."**

