

Maddie Barondeau



Kimberly-Clark



Hometown: Fort Wayne, IN

Co-Op Term: 3-Term Co-Op (3/3)

Company: Kimberly Clark

Location: Neenah, WI and Asheville, NC

AICHE position (2022-2023): President

Why did you decide to participate in the Co-Op program?

A: I saw it as a great way to get valuable experience. I have a deeper understanding of what I could see myself doing in my career, and what I don't want to do in the future. Additionally, being able to rotate work and school has helped me offset the cost of tuition, which was a really important benefit to me.

What sort of work have you done with your company?

I have worked in R&D, Quality, and Manufacturing. Working in manufacturing was my favorite term and that's what I'll be doing full time!

What is your favorite part of being a co-op student?

My favorite part of being a co-op student is getting the "best of both worlds." I got to have the college experience that everyone has at Purdue by being involved in various organizations and going to football and basketball games, but I also get to have a taste of the independence of working a full time job.

What advice do you have for students thinking of participating in the Co-Op program?

My biggest advice is that any experience is good experience. With doing a co-op with the same company, you'll have the time to learn in depth about the company and what you like and don't like. Learning what you don't like is just as valuable as learning what you like, and it's helpful to have those experiences with the same company in different roles. I would also say that joining a ChE organization like AIChE is a great way to meet other co-ops on the same rotation as you!