



Mary Beeson

Graduation Date:	May 2010
Hometown:	Englewood, Colorado
ChE Co-Op Employer:	DuPont
Co-Op Program:	5-session

Why did you choose Purdue and to participate in the ChE Co-Op program?

I am a Nebraska native, so I did not hear about Purdue until I was a senior in high school and the brochures for colleges started coming in. Purdue's strong Women in Engineering Program first attracted me to the campus but the terrific reputation of the Co-Op Program is what sold me on the university. No other school has a Co-Op Program like Purdue. It is an extremely valuable experience to be able to get 18 months of work experience while getting your bachelors degree. Once I set my eyes on Purdue I never looked back and I couldn't be happier!

What types of experience did you get as a ChE Co-Op with DuPont?

I worked five rotations for DuPont Chemical Solutions Enterprise (DCSE) in Delaware and New Jersey. DCSE is a business within DuPont that specializes in intermediate chemicals that go into protective coatings, performance lubricants, adhesives, and a wide range of other performance chemicals. I had five very different work experiences. My first rotation was in Secure Environmental Treatment in which I was in a process engineering role at a waste water treatment plant. The next rotation I was stationed in a chemical manufacturing plant specifically in batch process operations. The third time around I was part of the Safety, Health and Environmental Team which monitored the batch process operations. For my fourth and fifth terms I was located across the river at DuPont's R&D facility. My fourth term was in Quality and Product Development of Performance Lubricants. My fifth term was in Process Development which supported the manufacturing of protective coatings.

What do you think are the benefits of participating in the ChE Co-Op program?

There are a large number of benefits of being a Co-Op and I am discovering more and more every day. First is the amount of experience you'll obtain. By having five rotations you will rack up almost two years of work experience. No intern can say that. Also returning to the same company for all of your rotations results in better understanding of the company culture and methods and can lead to more responsibility. There is also the option to travel and experience new locations. I choose to work for DuPont partly because they were located on the East Coast, a place I had never lived let alone traveled to before. It was an incredible experience! The benefit related to school is the alternating schedule. You are able to take a semester to learn at Purdue then the following semester you are able to apply that knowledge, which creates a deep understanding of the material. Another benefit is the compensation. Money is a perk to the experiences you will take away from the program. Currently, I have discovered a few more perks to being a ChE Co-Op while hunting for a full-time job. The five work experiences will fill up your resume and give you great examples to talk about during your interviews. The Co-Op Program is highly respected throughout industry and recruiters always mention something great about it.