

**Alumni Questionnaire (Job or Grad School): Chelsea Hochstetler  
Quality Engineer at Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana (Princeton, IN) since June 2016  
USI 2016 B.S.E. Industrial Engineering emphasis graduate,  
USI 2018 MBA Engineering Management emphasis graduate**

How did your experience at USI help you find your first position after graduation?

**I needed an Engineering degree to get this job, however, my internship at Mead Johnson Nutrition and the contacts I made there actually helped me secure this job offer. The networking skills I learned while at USI helped me to make contacts to apply for this position.**

If you had it to do all over again, what would you do differently?

**I would have liked to start interning or co-oping sooner. It is a really good time in your life to try different companies and opportunities. I interned at Mead Johnson Nutrition in two different departments and that was very good, but I did not intern until the summer after my Junior year.**

On a typical day in this position, what do you do?

**I handle a portion of the exterior part quality for vehicles made at the Princeton Toyota Plant. Part responsibilities I have had are glass, weather strips, lamps, plastic molded parts, and stamped parts. If suppliers ship in parts with defects, the Quality Engineer is responsible for setting up containment, so the defects do not get installed on vehicles, and working with the supplier to understand why the defect was made and how to stop the defect from happening again.**

What personal qualities or abilities are important to being successful in this job?

**Problem Solving, perseverance, people skills, and time management**

What opportunities for advancement are there in this field?

**There are opportunities to advance through the technical side and become a Senior Engineer or principal Senior Engineer or if you are interested in managing people, you can become a manager all the way up to plant president.**

Is there a demand for people in this occupation?

**Yes, the automotive industry is always looking for Quality Engineers. Suppliers always have openings, however, the OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturer) have fewer openings due to the demand for these positions.**

What do you think of the experience you've had so far in terms of entering this field?

**I never saw myself in the automotive industry because I am not mechanically inclined, but there are so many opportunities within this field to do whatever you like to do. Quality Engineering is not a typical engineering field you hear about in school; however, it involves many areas of the company and is a good place for new engineers to start or continue to grow a successful and fulfilling career.**

What part of this job do you find most satisfying? most challenging?

**It is very satisfying when suppliers improve due to the activities you have completed with them and we are able to provide good parts to the line. This makes everyone's job easier. However, the challenging**

**part of the job is not being able to make change happen at a supplier that will not embrace the change you present.**