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B.S. in Food, Agricultural, Biological Engineering (2016)
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Describe your overall duties/ responsibilities as a Biomedical Engineering Manager:

As manager of the Biomedical Engineering department, I ensure all of the medical equipment in the hospital system are maintained and repaired, from CTs and MRIs to infusion pumps and patient beds. I oversee the day-to-day operations of a department of 25 technicians. I work alongside other departments of the hospital such as Procurement and Patient Safety to coordinate and evaluate device roll-outs and replacements. I also am a liaison between our team and the IT department, developing and improving our work order and device inventory.

Explain the skills/abilities that are required for being successful in your role:

The skills that are required to be successful in my role are flexibility and communication. Since I interact with a variety of audiences such as clinicians, buying specialists, and IT analysts, I have to be able to translate my technical knowledge in a way they can understand and relate to their own work. Since I work for a large hospital system, emergencies often arise in getting equipment up and running. You must be able to switch gears quickly and think out of the box so the clinicians can perform their work and take care of their patients.

What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Food, Agricultural, Biological Engineering?

I would tell students to try every opportunity that presents themselves. You do not know what career will be a fit unless you are open to try anything. I did not know I would enter this field when I was early in my undergraduate career, but I love my job and the challenges that present themselves every day. I took a chance and applied to a variety of internships in different areas, and those internships are where I figured out what work environment I wanted to be in. Also, networking is important! It has helped me a ton with getting references for jobs or even when I moved to new places.