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Describe your overall duties/responsibilities as a Supplier Quality Engineer:

I develop and implement risk-based quality oversight plans at suppliers across the Midwest that support our defense (fixed wing fighters, helicopters, weapons) and space (satellites, launch systems) product lines. This includes working directly with suppliers on proactive defect prevention efforts, product verification inspections, quality management system audits and performance recovery efforts. I also serve as the operations lead for a team of supplier quality engineers working across Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.

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

You must be a quick and efficient learner in this role. Technical knowledge across all disciplines (mechanical, electrical, structural, etc.) is essential due to the breadth of product that our supply base provides. Additionally, strong oral and written communication skills are critical to maintaining healthy relationships with supplier personnel and for driving continuous improvement.

What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Industrial & Systems Engineering?

ISE opens up an incredible array of career paths so I encourage you to get as much diversity of experience (industry, location, business size, responsibilities) as you can while you're a student and maintain the relationships that you forge along the way. This will help you gain confidence and provide clarity for your next step after graduation. Also, you don't need to have it all 'figured out' just yet. Stay curious, try new things and don't be afraid to take an unconventional career path if you have a strong passion or feel called to serve in a unique way. For example, I applied my ISE skillset working with a nonprofit in the prison re-entry space for several years.

