

Glenda Young

Hometown: Starkville, MS

Status: PhD Candidate

Department: Engineering Education, Virginia Tech (VT) College of Engineering

Undergraduate Institution and Major: Mississippi State University (MSU), B.S. Industrial and Systems Engineering

Current Activities/Hobbies: Cheering for SEC Football, musicals/theatre, traveling and exploring new places, spending time with family, studying the Bible

Involved with NSBE in the past?: Yes, I was first introduced to NSBE when my oldest sister participated in NSBE JR. I became involved with NSBE during my undergrad career. I participated in community and fundraising events, regional and national conferences, and served as Professional Chair in the MSU collegiate chapter. At the 2014 National Convention, I presented a seminar "Sharpening Your Vision to 20/20" (i.e. discussing skills needed for success as engineers in the year 2020). I also recruited potential VT graduate students at the 2015 NSBE National Convention Graduate Student Fair.

Why did you choose to attend Graduate School?: I was blessed to receive the Gates Millennium Scholarship as a high school senior, so I instantly gained both community and financial support to pursue the graduate school path. Also, while at MSU, I participated in Increasing Minority Access to Graduate Education (IMAGE) and NSBE activities where I learned about academic and industry career opportunities. I also participated in undergraduate research. In this experience, I recognized how much I enjoyed going to lab, asking questions, designing experiments, getting data, and exploring results. So, I was drawn to graduate school because it gave me a platform to continuously be curious. Even more, I found that graduate school allowed me to collaborate and explore various topics with other naturally curious individuals and experts.

Research summary: My dissertation explores the relationship between engineering students' participation in an academic-industry partnership and their intentions to pursue engineering industry roles. My research interests include academic-industry partnerships, broadening participation in engineering, and workforce development.

Career goals: Post PhD, I plan to take a role in industry that utilizes my expertise in optimizing academic-industry partnerships to broaden participation in engineering with the goal of improving the university to workforce transition for all students. I intend to develop student-centered strategies that support STEM workforce development and improve employee recruiting, onboarding, and development processes. Eventually, I plan to use my industry experiences to transition back to academia to investigate the longitudinal impact of academic-industry partnerships and assist students with career decision-making.