



Marissa Berns
School of Industrial Engineering
GEARE 2015 Cohort – Medellín, Colombia

My experience in the GEARE program can be summed up with the phrase “path-finding”. As the first GEARE student to study and work in Colombia, I enjoyed truly creating my own experience both studying at Universidad EAFIT and working for Grupo Nutresa. Along the way I have made wonderful friends, broadened by engineering and intercultural skill set, and fallen in love with the vibrant culture that puts Medellín far above the rest.

Broader Impacts

- Language Fluency
- Large Network of Contacts
- Deeper Understanding of International Business
- Heightened Cultural Sensitivity
- Increased Self-Confidence
- Adaptation to Colombian Family
- Latin Dancing Skills (esp. Salsa & Merengue)

Semester Abroad

Production Engineering

- Universidad EAFIT – Medellín, Colombia
 - Simulation for Production/Production Control
 - Testing and Properties of Materials in Manufacturing
 - Global Supply Chain Management
 - Manufacturing Processes
- English Teacher
 - RutaN
- Universidad de Antioquia



International Internship

Operations Intern

- Compañía Nacional de Chocolates
Grupo Nutresa – Rionegro, Colombia
- Constructed and analyzed a database of setup times between products in packaging
- Designed and performed tests of liquid adherents both in a laboratory and production environment
- Served as the sole point of contact between a potential provider, research & development, and manufacturing



Global Design Work

Health for India's Children EPICS Team

- Goal: Develop a cost-efficient and self-sustainable soy milk producing machine and distribution system for use by project partner Hope for Today (NGO) based in Hyderabad, India
- Focus on producing a low-cost, nutritional food item from the byproduct of soy milk
- Partner with food scientists to test nutritional value of byproduct



Domestic Internship

Industrial Engineering Intern

- Land O'Frost Inc. – Lansing, IL
- Developed Manufacturing Operating Procedures and assisted in machine qualification for automated packaging equipment
- Provided recommendations for improvement based on observations, saving the company over \$160,000 per year

