

# BELONGING IN *ceat*

## with Madison Clark

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### Diversity and Inclusion Programs

Madison Clark is a junior majoring in Architecture in the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology (CEAT) at Oklahoma State University (OSU). She chose to major in architecture because design runs in her blood. Her father is an architect and her mother was an apparel designer. She chose to attend at Oklahoma State University because both of her parents graduated from the university and were married on campus.

Madison's father was very supportive of her decision to pursue a career in architecture.



She developed a passion for the architecture field while working summers at her father's firm where she gained valuable knowledge and work experience.

Madison expressed that her academic experience in CEAT has been very good. She said, that CEAT offers a number of valuable resources to help students integrate into the community such as the living learning communities and architecture studios. Madison shared that she knew college would be challenging and anticipated the studio experience from her father's college stories. Luckily, she fell in love with studio as it felt like home.

Challenges, Madison faced as a CEAT student were adjusting to working to receive good grades. She often struggled to step out of her comfort zones to approach Teaching Assistants and Academic Coaches (tutors) with questions but as she pushed herself she became more comfortable and found them to be invaluable.

Besides her father's support, Madison shared that her peers, faculty, and staff at Oklahoma State helped her to continue pursuing her major in architecture. She said that the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) chapter was welcoming and allowed her to connect with a diverse group of students and find her place in the CEAT community.

Madison quickly became involved in the OSU CEAT community by serving as a Career Coach in CEAT Career Services, a Volunteer Coordinator for Freedom By Design which is a sister organization of the AIAS, and teaching architecture to K-12 through Freedom by Design.

Madison shared the faculty who impacted her the most was Mo'h Bilbeisi because he helped her overcome her fear of failure. She went on to say, that during her first studio, Professor Mo'h Bilbeisi pushed her to think outside the box and encouraged her wild creative ideas even if they did not work



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which boosted her confidence and pushed her to work harder.

During Madison's second year, she began questioning her career choice and contemplated changing her major to Sociology. She felt a lot of guilt but decided to share her concerns with her academic advisor, Lori Carroll. Madison said, that Lori Carroll made a huge impact on her academic career because she was genuine and encouraged her to explore her interest in other career paths.

Madison went on to enroll in a Sociology course which led to her declaring a minor. Lori Carroll listening and supporting Madison helped her to realize that architecture was still home and where she belonged.

Madison feels that anyone interested in pursuing a degree in engineering, architecture or engineering technology needs to get involved on campus, stay focused, learn to manage their time, and find a core

group of peers. She went on to say, that her classmates were her greatest resource.

Madison supports her peers in many ways, from reviewing resumes on or off the job, to providing opportunities for



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developing one's design experience through Freedom By Design, to simply offering a listening ear.

To Madison, inclusion is a welcomed acceptance into a group. She says, that for college success its crucial that everyone feels comfortable, welcomed, and safe.

Madison Clark belongs in CEAT because CEAT encourages creativity and allows her to pursue her passions.

*Belonging In CEAT is a Diversity and Inclusion publication that highlights academic experiences of students in the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology at Oklahoma State University.*

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