

Belonging in CEAT

Jasmine Taplin

Jasmine Taplin is a rising Senior majoring in Electrical Engineering in the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology (CEAT) at Oklahoma State University (OSU).

Jasmine chose to major in electrical engineering because she has always enjoyed tinkering with objects such as taking items apart and putting them back together. She found electrical components to be intriguing because it was something she could not just tinker with due to its danger of being electrocuted, so she decided to learn about it in school in order to understand it.

Her mother has always been highly encouraging of her studies, career, goal, and especially her passions as a Black American woman due to the low statistics of Black American women in STEM related fields throughout history.

When seeking where to obtain her electrical engineering degree, Jasmine chose OSU CEAT because of OSU's reputation in Oklahoma for its prestigious engineering. During her decision process, she was able to tour OSU CEAT and fell in love with the atmosphere, but overall she enjoyed the supportive and welcoming spirit from Yoko Speight who has been there for her before she even decided that she was transferring to OSU.

As a CEAT student, Jasmine enjoys the material that she is learning and feels grateful for being surrounded by many caring professors.

Jasmine received the ECE Sigmon Scholarship, joined Beta Kappa Nu, and also received support through the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Oklahoma State Chapter. Jasmine feels great to be around others who are going through the same challenges especially those who are the same race as her. The ECE Sigmon Scholarship provided Jasmine with financial assistance for college while NSBE and Yoko have been her pillars who have supported her with the most emotional and physical assistance.

The largest challenge that Jasmine has faced is the feeling that she has something to prove due to her race and the major that she is pursuing. She shared, that It is not uncommon for other Black Americans to feel like they have to perform 10x better than their counterparts in order to gain the same acknowledgement. Along with that, not having a space to come together as minorities can be challenging as well, because there are times where she would like to study with fellow Black American engineering students. She has overcome these challenges by reminding herself that all she can do is her best and connect with organizations like NSBE also she would like to have later tutoring hours, because as a night owl, it is challenging to find tutoring that would benefit her at the hours that she is the most focused on her work and studies.

Jasmine is grateful for Yoko Speight due to her consistent support in helping her both emotionally and physically throughout her time here at OSU, as well as, for Ms. Maura Loyola who has also provided her with emotional and physical support through the RISE program. Jasmine expresses her gratitude for Dr. Kirksey and his team for the student support in RISE, OK-LSAMP, and McNair. These programs have provided her with emotional, physical, and/or financial support to advance in her academic career.

Jasmine is highly involved in the OSU CEAT community with organizations such as Beta Kappa Nu, Society of women engineers, and NSBE. All of these organizations have helped her give back to the CEAT community by having events such as LinkedIn informational, DEI Company Spotlights, and CEAT career fair advice. Jasmine enjoys supporting her peers because they can advance their knowledge in areas that may be intimidating or difficult to understand. She is also involved in the Student Union Activities Board here at OSU that allows for many students to relieve stress and enjoy college through events typically held on campus.

Jasmine's advice for anyone pursuing a degree in engineering technology to keep striving for that degree. Engineering, architecture, and engineering technology are challenging majors and require a lot of studying and hard work, but if you persevere through the difficult times, the end result will be worth the blood, sweat, and tears. She shares to find supporters, because having positive energy and people who understand what you are going through is very helpful. Her advice to freshmen is, "your best is all you can give, If your best is not performing where you desire then find people who have the tools and resources to help you. Push through the valleys and enjoy the hills."

Jasmine expresses inclusion as a feeling of belong, having a sense that you are truly welcomed and having others you can confide in and also feel comfortable around. Jasmine continues, when someone does not feel as though they belong in an environment, they are being excluded whether the environment feels like they are being helpful to all or not. Inclusion infers that everyone is welcomed.

Jasmine said she belongs in CEAT because she is studying electrical engineering. It should not matter what her financial background is nor what race she is, CEAT is a college for all engineering, architecture, and engineering technology students. Everyone who wishes to learn belongs in CEAT and shall be welcomed with open arms to the community!

