

## This I Believe

I believe in conservation. I think it is very important for humans to leave a minimal impact on the environment. As an engineer, I have the opportunity to lead the way in development while minimizing negative impacts on the environment and preserving its natural beauty. I will be able to utilize the theories of sustainability to create solutions for giving people a place to live while leaving our environment the same way it was before.

I believe in conservation because I know that it will have a positive impact on everyone. Leaving areas of land as national parks allows everyone to enjoy the environment. It gives everyone the opportunity to admire what our Earth is made of without any human interference.

I have always loved the outdoors and I enjoy spending time doing activities such as mountain biking and kayaking. The best places to go are places where our environment has been minimally disturbed. Mountain biking down a busy street is a lot different than mountain biking down a natural or manmade trail that is surrounded by trees. Kayaking is also more fun when it is possible to paddle down river without being surrounded by trash and oil floating on the surface.

One of my favorite places to go is the U.S. National Whitewater Center. It was built in a park that sits right next to the Catawba River. This is a great place that I like to go to do some flat-water kayaking. It is also surrounded by mountain biking trails that can also be utilized as hiking trails. The manmade river that was designed to hold whitewater kayaking events is an engineering masterpiece. It is made up of concrete channels that allow water to flow through. The channels are equipped with devices that allow the water to be diverted to create whitewater situations. The channels are designed so that the rapids can be changed to make each experience different. This is a great example of conservation and engineering to allow people to enjoy our environment.

I believe that practicing conservation will restore the natural beauty of our environment and allow humans to live in it with little impact. Being an engineer will allow me spread the word of conservation in engineering to improve the methods of design and construction. Complete developments could be designed to fully sustain themselves and minimize the amount of natural resources needed.