



Profiles of Electrical Engineers and Computer Scientists



Michael Gatz

**Supervising Engineer
Caterpillar Incorporated
Peoria, IL**

Education:

B.S. - Electrical Engineering, Valparaiso University

M.S. - Electrical Engineering/Business Administration, Bradley University

Job Description:

Supervising Engineer focused primarily on software development.

Advice to Students:

"Look for summer work that is different and challenging. Especially valuable is work that requires working with customers."

Video Transcript 1:

"You shouldn't go to work someplace where you're not going to have fun, where you're not going to enjoy what you do. And to me, finding new ways to solve problems every day and to make it better and beat that competitor, that's the thrill of the chase. That's what brings me into work every day."

Interview:

Michael Gatz loves the competition, and, as a supervisor for Caterpillar, he hires people who have an appreciation for it too. He explains, "Probably one of the most important elements in doing our job here is teamwork. The competition can get ahead of you very quickly. So trying to make sure everybody understands where you want to be and going in the same direction at the same time is just real important to us." When hiring new engineers, Gatz looks for what sets them apart from others: "maybe a unique job that they may have had during a summer or unique experience that they may have had in high school." He advises students to look for summer work that is different and challenging. Especially valuable is work that requires them to work with customers. Gatz is also interested in candidates with good communication skills and a good GPA. In the interview, he asks them to tell him about one of the most difficult technical problems they have had to work on. From the answer, Gatz tries to determine "whether or not the person has taken an analytical approach, whether they've documented their results, whether they work together well with their associates on that team, and" what the results of the project were. In addition, he wants to know if the candidate got personal satisfaction from the project; "how determined they were to make it work; how much extra effort they put into it." In a competitive world, those things are important.

"Profiles of Electrical Engineers and Computer Scientists"

Prepared as part of the Sloan Career Cornerstone Center (www.careercornerstone.org)

Source: "Careers for Electrical Engineers and Computer Scientists" © Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers