

Jimmy Weaver Mechanical Partner Reflection

My overall experience in AE 481W/897G, as well as the AEI Student Design competition, was a good one. The experience I have gained over the last year will be directly applicable to my professional career and I am grateful for that. Being involved the AEI competition exposed me to design challenges faced by all disciplines and team members and also exposed me to the solutions to those challenges. During the design process all team members were forced to think on a sustainable, feasible, economical, and ethical level, which will be great experience moving forward.

Looking toward the future, I hope to take the lessons learned from this experience and improve upon them. We realized after this competition that identifying conflicting design choices early on in the project was crucial to a project's success and, if not done properly, could cause larger issues later on. It was also imperative that team members have a clear understand of the timeline of the project and a realistic picture of the time needed to design project deliverables. Overall, the research and design of complex mechanical systems throughout this process has made me a better engineer and taught me valuable lessons in self-development.