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## A Heart to Build and Serve: A Student's Passion for Engineering and Missions

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## **A Heart to Build and Serve: A Student's Passion for Engineering and Missions**

**CEDARVILLE, OHIO** -- Can a computer engineer go into full-time missions? Over the summer, Zoe Schmidt learned the answer is yes.

Schmidt, a junior computer engineering student at Cedarville University, fell in love with computer programming in high school. She joined a FIRST Robotics Competition team and has been hooked on engineering ever since.

After gaining some experience with the electrical side of engineering, Schmidt found the perfect blend of hands-on work and computer programming as a computer engineering student at Cedarville. The program combines aspects of computer science and electrical engineering.

Though she chose computer engineering as her major, Schmidt, of Chillicothe, Illinois, has also always had a heart for missions, but she didn't really understand how her two passions fit together.

However, as she browsed Cedarville's career fair in the fall of 2021, she stumbled upon Trans World Radio (TWR), an organization that uses radio broadcasting from stations around the world to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. TWR offers internships for students in nearly any field, including engineering, and applies their skills to the mission field.

"I was getting chills when they told me what TWR was about," Schmidt said. "I had found a way to use engineering for God's glory." Schmidt applied for the internship and found herself in West Africa during the summer of 2022.

It turns out that Schmidt's skill set fit the station's needs perfectly, as they were looking for a computer engineer. During her two months with TWR's West Africa transmitting station, Schmidt worked largely with remote control and monitoring units.

Engineering consultants work with TWR, diagnosing issues and recommending solutions. The upkeep of the transmitters that produce radio signals and the generators that power the transmitters is crucial. The remote control and monitoring system that Schmidt began setting up will eventually allow the consultants to see and assess the status and function of the transmitters and generators at the station without being physically present.

“I felt a sense of purpose while over there,” Schmidt said, “and I was convicted about it. If I have a heart for missions and skills that could allow me access to countries closed to the outside world and the gospel, how could I not be about that?”

Her tentative plan is to get more experience in engineering before pursuing future missions opportunities. Learning the technical skills, Schmidt believes, will help her become an asset on the mission field.

Through Cedarville’s career fair, Schmidt was able to find an internship that blended her passions for missions and engineering by providing practical experience on the mission field.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 5,082 undergraduate, graduate, and dual enrolled high school students in more than 175 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including its [Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering](#), high graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and the #4 national ranking by the Wall Street Journal for student engagement. For more information about the University, visit [cedarville.edu](http://cedarville.edu).

Written by Sarah Mummert

Photo Cutlines:

Caption (A): Zoe Schmidt (left) and another intern up on the transmitting tower (photo courtesy of Zoe Schmidt)

Caption (B): One of the transmitting towers at TWR’s West Africa transmitting station (photo courtesy of Zoe Schmidt)