

BELONGING IN *ceat*

with Mallory Newell



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Programs



Mallory Newell is a junior in Industrial Engineering & Management here in OSU CEAT. She says that there is truly a major for every person within CEAT, but she gravitated towards IEM before freshman orientation because of the customer-facing aspect of the degree. For Mallory, IEM is a perfect mix of process improvement and production that can be utilized in nearly every industry. Something else that stuck out to Mallory was the relationship this

major has with the world economy and business-sector. She says that she is the only one in her entire extended family that has pursued an engineering degree, and that at first, it was extremely daunting. She grew up with an understanding of the world of business, but personally had an affinity for STEM classes, so she was able to combine these two aspects of herself into an IEM degree. Mallory grew up in a family comprised almost exclusively of OSU Cowboys.

Yet, as a 4th generation Oklahoma State student, she is the first of her family to be a CEAT student. She states that as almost all engineering students will tell you, she had an affinity for math and science in middle school and high school. This is one of the main reasons she ended up at OSU, because despite being an out of state student, she knew about the prestigious engineering college in Stillwater, OK.



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Mallory says that her experience as an OSU CEAT student has been incredible, but nothing like what she expected. She says that one of the main characteristics of CEAT that continues to surprise her is that each semester contains a variety of opportunities for each and every student to find their passion. Mallory says that "often times STEM students are stereotyped to fit into one bubble, but truly every single person I know in this college is entirely unique. I have been able to get to know so many students with such a wide variety of interests, yet we are all able to work together each semester and succeed in all of our classes."

In CEAT Freshman Council, Mallory was paired with a mentor, who was a CEAT senior, who was extremely effective in helping her learn how to navigate the challenges of CEAT. For an entire year, she says that her mentor would reach out to get to know her, answers any questions she had, or just be a listening ear from someone who understands.

Mallory describes how invaluable this was for her and her learning here at CEAT, which then turned into four years worth of support from her peers. She describes that study groups that her and other students have formed have created a sense of comfort and has helped push her to achieve some of her goals. Mallory says that giving up is a lot easier when you are working through problems alone, so finding her CEAT support system has made all the difference in continuing my OSU IEM degree.

A challenge Mallory has faced as a CEAT student, she shares, is the fact that many of her off-campus organizations do not contain many CEAT students. Finding a way to stay invested and involved within the CEAT community was a struggle for Mallory at the beginning of her college career. She did not feel like she was similar to the students sitting around her in classes. Mallory began to overcome this issue in the first few semesters of college by trying out as many different groups as possible,

where she was able to invest in many different relationships. She shares that it is hard to work through the tough classes alone, so making a conscious effort to get to know her peers and reaching out to professors was a key part of her success.

Mallory says that she has been continually surprised by how much each professor truly wants to help their students succeed, no matter what it takes. Dr. Glenn and Dr. Mohammad were two specific professors that made a large impact in her education within the first couple semesters at OSU. Another group of staff that has made a large impact on Mallory's academic career has been all of the CEAT TA's that have helped her throughout her courses.

One of the main ways Mallory has plugged into the OSU CEAT community is through becoming a Career Coach at CEAT Career Services. In this role, she has been trained to review resumes, aid in the job search process, provide interview



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tips and advice, and host events about a variety of different career topics. She says that she loves this job and believes that her office is a resource that students should take advantage of as much as possible. Through the training for this role, she believes that she has become far more prepared to search for jobs and begin her professional career. Mallory enjoys getting to share all of the information she has learned with students who have the same questions she had before starting her job at CEAT Career Services. In addition to this job, she has also been involved in various CEAT clubs, including CEAT Freshman Council and our OSU chapter of IISE.

When asked what advice Mallory would give to someone pursuing a degree in engineering, architecture or engineering technology, she simply states, "Do not let a 'STEM major' overwhelm you. Our classes will be hard, especially in the beginning, but the more work you put into your classes, the more invested you will become. I have come to love my major even more with each semester I have completed, so not giving up with the first challenge you face is extremely important." Mallory says that her freshman year, she was nervous to get too involved in CEAT in order to not be too busy on top of her schoolwork. This proved to be far from true, and she has found

that the more involved she gets in CEAT, the more relaxed and confident she feels in herself.

For Mallory, inclusion is engaging with everyone around, no matter your similarities or differences. She thinks that we learn best from those different than us and fostering an environment that makes this possible is 'inclusion.'

Mallory belongs on CEAT because there is such a diverse offering of majors in the college that ensures that every type of person can find their passion; She knows that she is a piece of that puzzle.

