

Featured Student - Prerit Oberai (PLC '14)

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*Major - Electrical & Computer Engineering
Hoelscher Memorial Scholarship Recipient 2017-18*

Finding elegant solutions to complex problems is what motivates senior, Prerit Oberai (PLC '14), to study Electrical and Computer Engineering. With a dream to one day start his own company, Prerit constantly pushes himself outside of his comfort zone in the pursuit of new experiences. He seeks out exposure to start-up businesses and has participated in multiple hackathons where he is given 24-36 hours to solve a problem through coding. This setting allows Prerit to make rapid progress and present an idea after a short amount of time instead of getting caught up in the planning stages. His favorite project involved building an app that lets you talk to your computer to control it. This application allows populations that have medical complications that make it hard to use their hands to have

access to the internet and the opportunities it provides. Realizing the benefits of his application made Prerit realize that what he builds can help people and that something simple can address a much bigger problem. *"These simple solutions to complex issues," he says, "is how some of the best companies are made".*

On campus, Prerit is the Technical Editor-in-Chief of the Colorado Engineer Magazine where he publishes stories about research, professors, and students and highlights the power of engineering to transform lives. Prerit was recently a command controller for two years in the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP), sending space flight commands to five NASA satellites including the Kepler Space Telescope. He is also involved in research exploring his interest in implantable medical devices. Prerit demonstrates a strong work ethic through all of his endeavors and constantly challenges himself to meet high expectations.

Throughout his time in PLC, Prerit found that PLC courses had a different level of demand. They required a level of excellence that helped him develop strong communication and writing skills allowing him to effectively communicate his message. His advice to PLC freshmen is to, *"Get outside of your comfort zone. Go out and expand friend groups, take those relationships and build upon them."* Prerit views his PLC peers as some of his best friends and states that, *"Everyone ends up doing something groundbreaking. It's an amazing network."*

When Prerit isn't using his knack for solving problems in the engineering world, he can be found playing basketball, teaching himself how to play the guitar or trombone, or practicing Taekwondo with the University of Colorado Taekwondo team. With each activity, Prerit remains constant with his dedication and commitment. He is not one to back down from a challenge.
