WHAT IS THAT ENGINEERING SERVICE GOOD FOR ANYWAY?

Understanding the Value of Engineering Service in Employment

Through interviews with a dozen employers in civil, environmental, and mechanical engineering, we begin to understand how some of these Learning Through Service activities, such as Engineers Without Borders, Humanitarian Engineering, service learning courses, influence hiring decisions. The context of the employer responses are based on the way potential employees present their experiences and skills developed through participation as well as the employers' past experience with LTS alumni. Employers do, overall, see these activities as beneficial to their company through real-world experiences.

*While earning a BS in Civil Engineering at UC Berkeley, Greg also earned a minor in Global Poverty and Practice. Through this, he became interested in using engineering to help alleviate poverty and worked with architects on a community center in rural Nicaragua. Following some other experiences, Greg pursued an MS in structural engineering at Stanford University while working on a holistic plan for tsunami damage mitigation for the city of Padang in West Sumatra, Indonesia. Each of these involved travel to the country and collaboration with local partners. After finishing his degree, he worked as a structural engineer for over a year and a half then had the opportunity to work towards improving engineering education by incorporating service into engineering courses.