

Employee Spotlight: Elijah Noll

From Building Custom Rockets to Designing the Future

Long before becoming a Mechanical Engineering intern, Elijah Noll was already thinking like an engineer. From designing and building his own model rockets to woodworking, welding, and creating custom ping pong paddles, he was constantly looking for opportunities to build something new and improve upon it. That curiosity and drive to solve problems ultimately led him to pursue Mechanical Engineering at Messiah University and, today, a second summer internship with McClure.



Entering his senior year at Messiah, Elijah continues to apply his passion for hands-on learning while gaining valuable experience in the world of HVAC engineering.

A Passion for Problem-Solving

For Elijah, engineering was a natural fit from an early age.

Growing up, he excelled in math and science and was encouraged by teachers who recognized his potential. Programs such as Future City and Odyssey of the Mind challenged him to think creatively and develop innovative solutions to complex problems.

His interest in engineering continued to grow throughout high school. Whether he was woodworking, welding, building custom model rockets from scratch, or experimenting with new projects, Elijah enjoyed the process of designing, testing, and improving his work.

"All of these opportunities created a passion for building things and solving problems," he shared.

Why He Chose to Return

After a successful first year as an intern, Elijah didn't hesitate when the opportunity arose to return to McClure.

"I loved the first year—the culture and the people I got to work with," he said. "Everyone is extremely helpful and friendly, and people genuinely want to see me succeed."

Beyond the supportive environment, Elijah discovered a strong interest in HVAC engineering and wanted to continue exploring an industry he finds both challenging and rewarding.

Building Confidence Through Experience

Like many young engineers entering the workforce, Elijah faced a significant learning curve during his first internship. Now in his second year, he has a deeper understanding of McClure's processes and is taking on greater responsibilities.

"I'm still learning a lot, but I understand more about what's going on and our processes," he said. "Now I'm able to dig deeper into the smaller things and take on more responsibility."

With a stronger foundation, Elijah has been able to contribute more confidently while continuing to expand his technical knowledge.

Projects That Make an Impact

One of the most exciting projects Elijah has had the opportunity to see is the Beaver Stadium renovation.

"Just seeing how massive the stadium is has been impressive," he said.

However, his favorite project to work on has been the Red Bank Valley School District project because of the opportunity to be involved from the very beginning.

"Matt Faller set it up so I've been along from the start," Elijah explained. "It's been great to see the entire process from the early stages to now beginning the design work."

Being involved throughout the lifecycle of a project has given him valuable insight into the planning, coordination, and engineering that happens behind the scenes.

Lessons Learned Along the Way

When asked about the skills he's developed most during his internship, Elijah points to something every engineer must learn: knowing when to ask questions.

"I've learned when it makes sense to ask questions and when you need to figure it out yourself."

As the only Mechanical Engineering intern, Elijah regularly works with multiple engineers and balances assignments across several projects. That experience has strengthened his organizational and communication skills.

"It's helped me learn how to stay organized, multitask, prioritize work, and communicate timelines so nothing gets missed."

These skills have become just as important as the technical knowledge he's gaining every day.

A New Appreciation for HVAC Engineering

One aspect of the profession that surprised Elijah most was the complexity of HVAC engineering.

"I wasn't aware of how much engineering goes into HVAC systems," he said. "Every building is different and there are so many factors to consider."

His internship has opened his eyes to the level of detail, analysis, and coordination required to create systems that work efficiently and effectively for each unique project.

Learning from Great Mentors

Elijah attributes much of his success to the people who have guided and encouraged him throughout his journey.

His parents played a key role in developing his hands-on approach to learning, while professors at Messiah University helped shape his academic and professional interests.

At McClure, he credits Mechanical Engineer Matt Faller for having a significant impact on his growth.

"Matt has been a huge help for me here," Elijah said. "He's always willing to teach and knows how to explain things in a way that makes sense."

Having mentors who are invested in his success has allowed Elijah to build confidence and continue expanding his engineering knowledge.

Looking Toward the Future

As graduation approaches, Elijah hopes to continue building a career in the HVAC industry and sees exciting opportunities ahead.

"I'd like to continue my career at McClure," he said. "I like the HVAC space, and I'm interested in learning more and growing my expertise."

For the remainder of his internship, he looks forward to gaining a deeper understanding of design work and learning more about why HVAC systems are engineered the way they are.

He's especially excited about future site visits.

"You get to see in person what you've been working on in the office," he explained. "It helps you appreciate the complexity of the work we do, meet the people in the field, and see the project beyond what's on paper."

A Culture of Connection

While Elijah enjoys the technical challenges of engineering, it's the people at McClure who have made the experience especially meaningful.

"I like all the events we do. People leave their desks and genuinely care about getting to know their coworkers," he said. "Everyone is very welcoming."

That supportive culture is one of the reasons he was excited to return for a second year—and one of the reasons he hopes to continue his career with McClure after graduation.

Fast Facts About Elijah

School: Messiah University

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Favorite Engineering Software: SolidWorks

Favorite College Class: Physics

Favorite Football Team: Philadelphia Eagles

Dream Engineering Project: Designing rocket ships for SpaceX

Hidden Talent: He can ride a unicycle.

Best Career Advice He's Received

"Put yourself out there. Don't doubt your ability. Continue to put yourself out there and believe that you can do it."

With his curiosity, work ethic, and passion for learning, Elijah is already making valuable contributions to the engineering team. We look forward to seeing where his talents and determination take him in the years ahead.