Transferring Passion into Practice: Volunteer Fireman/EMT Michael Wolff now Approaches Healthcare Improvement from an Industrial and Systems Engineering Perspective

One might not expect an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with 4 years' experience or volunteer fireman to be concerned with the bigger picture when it comes to healthcare, but that would be an error.

“I have had a very profound interest in healthcare originating back to being an undergraduate at Binghamton University,” says Michael Wolff. “What sparked this interest was being involved in the Harpur’s Ferry Ambulance, the student-run university ambulance service. Belonging to this great organization really shed light into the world of healthcare for me and how it affects so many people.”

Michael Wolff is now taking that passion one step further as a student of the Executive Master of Science in Health Systems – Manhattan program in New York City.

“This program seemed like the perfect opportunity for me to combine my studies with something I am very passionate about. As many people are aware, healthcare is evolving rapidly in this country and industrial engineers are going to have to be at the center of these changes by making the delivery of healthcare more efficient and safer.”

Since starting the program, Michael has been interning at the Institute of Clinical Excellence and Quality of the North Shore-LIJ health system. He credits the program with giving him the necessary skills to work in this environment and be a productive team member in health systems projects.

“More recently,” says Michael, “I have applied and been accepted into the Administrative Fellowship Program at North Shore-LIJ. This is a full year post-graduate program that allows fellows to be mentored by senior leadership in the health system and rotate through departments to experience the different aspects of being a healthcare administrator. The application process for this fellowship was extremely rigorous and the selectivity of candidates was even greater. There is no doubt in my mind that this unique program has helped me attain this fellowship position.”

Michael Wolff has a promising path ahead of him. He hopes to one day apply his passions back into emergency response where, in his words, “efficiency and best practices are key to patient safety.” His success in this case will be a win for us all as more and more engineers like Michael are transforming the state of healthcare today.