ENGINEERING IDENTITY: A LIFE STORY APPROACH

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RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the early life experiences as told by engineers and engineering students that guided these individuals to the profession?
METHODS

• Participants
  • Volunteers from the UNA Engineering Technology Department
    • Two senior engineering students
    • One faculty member

• Data Collection
  • Demographic Survey
  • Career Construction Interview
  • Life Story Questionnaire Interview-Modified
DATA COLLECTION

- Career Construction Interview
  - The CCI is a semi-structured interview that focuses participants to respond to questions concerning current activities, stories or literature of current interest, and memories from childhood.

- Life Story Questionnaire Interview-Modified
  - The interview consists of ten questions that direct the participant to reflect on life highlights, aspirations or plans, contribution, job responsibilities, family, friends, commitments, role models, and philosophical beliefs.
  - For this project, the interview has been modified to focus on career development aspects. Many of the questions are similar to the original questions, but a few have been altered to focus the participant’s comments to career areas. Additionally, the questions concerning family and friends were altered to focus on the career development aspects of the stories.
ACHIEVEMENT ORIENTED = STRIVING AND RESPONSIBILITY; HIGH STANDARDS
SEQUENTIAL THINKING = PERCEPTIONS MORE CAUSE AND EFFECT LIKE
ESPRIT DE CORPS = SHARED PURPOSE AND PRIDE IN BELONGING
ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR - STEM EXPOSURE

- Engineering Identity
- STEM Exposure
- Increased Exposure
- Urban
- Rural
- Inspired by a Teacher
- No Direct Application
  "You are good at math"
- Direct Application
  "You should be an engineer"
- High Clarity
- Low Clarity
- Delayed Development

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR - STEM EXPOSURE