Empower and the Student Initiative Funds

Leif Tiltins behind the wheel of the FSAE team car at an event in Michigan, USA.

One of the biggest challenges engineering students face upon graduation is turning the years of theoretical training into real-world practice. That's why participation in extra-curricular activities like the design teams plays a crucial role in educating our students. For Leif Tiltins (BEng '12), it was participating in the FSAE Racing Team that brought it all together.

"We went through many roles - hustling for sponsorship or free parts one day, to drilling down deep into new vehicle dynamics software the next," he explained. "The out of classroom learning never stopped; as the culture of our team grew, so did the commitment of our members."

That experience proved pivotal for Tiltins, who has since jumped into the start-up world, along with three other engineering grads. Now head of Business Development for Aon3D – a start-up manufacturer of industrial 3D printers – he finds the soft and hard skills that he developed as a member of the racing team have come in very handy.

"The startup life is very reminiscent of those days - mornings, evenings and weekends spent working on a project you genuinely feel a part of, which comes from colleagues who feel like committed teammates," he said. "I joined the McGill racing team looking for new friends with common interests; I left with great friends and the foundation for a multidisciplinary toolkit I keep adding to."

WHAT IS EMPOWER?

The Empower program is the mission of the Faculty of Engineering to cultivate 'Engaged Engineers.' These are students who will become the future leaders and innovators of the ever-changing engineering industry and global community. The Engaged Engineer is someone who is not only proficient with the cutting-edge technical knowledge taught within the curriculum, but who can also put what is learned in the classroom into action for both personal/professional development, as well as the benefit of society as a whole. The Faculty supports students by:

- Enhancing select experiential learning opportunities within the Faculty

- Providing funding support for students, student groups, clubs, or organizations who are offering or undertaking experiential learning activities, including seed funding to establish new experiential learning opportunities.

> "McGill Engineering is not just about the classwork and the academics: it's about applying that learning in teams by trying … to have an impact outside of the classroom."

RORY ALTMAN

Benefactor, Student Initiative Funds

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Empower program covers a number of areas, including the **Student Initiative Funds** which support activities like the FSAE Racing Team. Participating in Design Teams such as this have a host of benefits for students, including leadership skill development, communications skill development, community engagement and mentorship building, to name a few. But every year, the number of students applying for funding support for these activities far outstrips the available resources to support. You can help us close this gap and provide opportunities for students to grow outside the classroom through your generous gift. Your gift can take different forms:

- **Endowment:** An endowment is a substantial investment that allows the gift to remain in perpetuity. The initial gift is invested in a fund that generates interest each year. It is with this interest that a design team can be funded each year for the duration of the program. Endowments for the Empower program begin at $50,000.

- **Direct funding:** In this arrangement, the funds provided to the Faculty are not invested but used immediately in the program. We ask for a minimum commitment of four years, at $5,000 per year (i.e., $20,000).

Whichever method you choose, your payments may be deferred, or can be made using equities or other assets. But more importantly, your gift will help students benefit immediately from new opportunities to learn, in ways that go beyond the traditional classroom setting. The Empower program has already made a huge difference to people like Leif Tiltins. Your support can helps us provide that experience to others like him.

Your support matters

Each year, the Student Iniative Fund supports 18 different design teams, and a number of other events, workshops, conference and other learning experiences. But we cannot meet the demand from the students. Your gift can help us bridge this gap and provide the benefits of this experience to an even greater number of our students. Please help us support these young minds.

TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT:

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