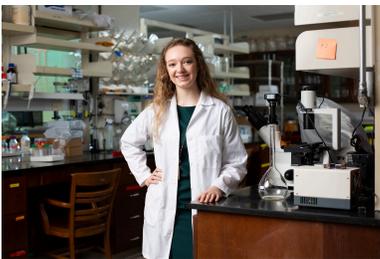


# Turning Trash into Treasure

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USU Engineering Graduate Embarks into the World of Chemical Engineering

Abiela Meek graduated from Utah State University with a bachelors in biological engineering. She started her Ph.D. fall 2023 in chemical and biomolecular engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



*Abiela Meek graduated from Utah State University with a bachelors in biological engineering and started her Ph.D. fall 2023 in chemical and biomolecular engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. [Photo: Matt Jensen]*

Her interest in biology came from an interest in making soap as a child, and even led to the selection of examining the chemistry and biology of laundry detergent for a high school project.

Meek is originally from Idaho Falls and met her husband at Utah State. Her favorite memories all include the clubs she was a part of, including the USU section of Society of Women Engineers.

“The people in these groups were all so diverse and extremely impactful,” she said.

Her research at USU followed the process of growing algae in wastewater to be turned into biofuel products. She wants to continue expanding upon her skills in management and development to create products out of the waste stream and make a positive impact on the world.

After graduation, Meek wants to continue using her research to benefit society by starting a business that takes waste and manufactures at-scale products for the chemical industry.

Meek’s husband continues to support her and her goals in her doctorate program. She is thankful for him and everyone who has offered encouragement to her throughout her engineering career.

“Engineering is for everyone. You can look like me and still be a part of a great community,” Meek said. “Your voice matters.”

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