

## **Background**

About Ben Bufford: Ben graduated from Calvin University in 2006 with a degree in electrical engineering. He went on to work as an engineer at General Electric and won GE's competitive ERD Award for his work as lead engineer and technologist at GE Aviation's Navigation and Guidance division, where he specialized on Flight Management Systems. While at GE, Ben was also selected to assist in the recruitment of new hires through GE's premier Edison Engineering Development Program, an accelerated professional development program for those who are passionate about technology.

Perhaps more than Ben's professional achievements, it was his volunteer service that made him a widely respected figure in the Grand Rapids community. Ben's service was a reflection of his faith and he dedicated himself to a variety of roles at his church, Vineyard North Church. In addition, he served on the Michigan Board of Nursing, Varnum Law's Diversity Council, GE Aviation's African American Forum, and the Grand Rapids Symphony's Community Engagement Committee.

Out of recognition and gratitude for Ben's technical skills, dedication to the field of engineering, leadership, and call to service, GE Aviation, in collaboration with Calvin University, established the Ben Bufford's GE summer internship. After a few years of this program the Grand Rapids Chapter of the African American Forum decided to open the Internship opportunity to other local Grand Rapids college and universities.

## Internship Requirements

Applicants for the Ben Bufford's GE summer internship must meet the following criteria:

- Be a current Calvin University or Grand Valley State University full-time student and planning to enroll full-time the following year
- Have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA, completed their junior year and entering their senior year in the fall (this internship is for the summer between your junior and senior year)
- Be a technical major, specifically Electrical & Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Aeronautical Engineering, or Mathematics with a strong commitment to a career in engineering
- Show evidence in a **cover letter** of innovation, imagination, willingness, and ability to learn from others, leadership capability, interpersonal skills, academic excellence, and the strong desire to be a part of a Fortune 500 company (**please include with submission of resume**)
- Submit a **professional resume and a 500-word essay** emphasizing how their community outreach connects with the role technology should serve in today's world. The essay should be directly tied to the community outreach they have performed during their tenure at school
- Provide (2) recommendations
  - One must be from a College/University faculty/staff member
  - One must be from a community service leader (reference essay)

**Please Note:** This internship position will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan and GE will only employ those who are legally authorized to work in the United States (unrestricted work authorization)



## Faculty/Staff Recommendation Form

**Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate this candidate on the following criteria by marking an X in the appropriate box:

	Needs Development 1	2	Capable and Effective 3	4	Very Effective 5	Comments
Candidate's demonstrated ability and willingness to learn from others.						
Evidence of candidate's ability to work collaboratively and effectively in team settings.						
Candidate shows a commitment to leadership either in the classroom or the greater community.						
Candidate displays imaginative and innovative thinking.						

Additional comments:

**Recommenders:** Please save and send as an attachment or scan this recommendation form and send via email to [aaf.grandrapids1@ge.com](mailto:aaf.grandrapids1@ge.com) by **October 15, 2021**.



## Community Service Recommendation Form

**Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate this candidate on the following criteria by marking an X in the appropriate box:

	Needs Development 1	2	Capable and Effective 3	4	Very Effective 5	Comments
Candidate's demonstrated ability and willingness to learn from others.						
Evidence of candidate's ability to work collaboratively and effectively in team settings.						
Candidate shows a commitment to leadership either in the classroom or the greater community.						
Candidate displays imaginative and innovative thinking.						

Additional comments:

**Recommenders:** Please save and send as an attachment or scan this recommendation form and send via email to [aaf.grandrapids1@ge.com](mailto:aaf.grandrapids1@ge.com) by **October 15, 2021**.

# Ben Bufford GE Aviation Summer Internship



## Submission Guidelines

The Ben Bufford GE Aviation Summer Internship

Applicants must submit the following by **October 15, 2021** via email to [aaf.grandrapids1@ge.com](mailto:aaf.grandrapids1@ge.com):

- Resume
- Essay
- Official Transcript

Recommendation Letters be submitted by **October 15, 2021** via email to [aaf.grandrapids1@ge.com](mailto:aaf.grandrapids1@ge.com)