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I grew up in a family where education was not important. Investing, saving, and budgeting were foreign concepts to me. However, getting a job and going to work was expected. Living paycheck to paycheck was the norm since big companies were uncommon, and it was difficult to maintain a job for an extensive period of time. If I'm being candid, coming to this country wasn't a dream come true because it was never actually an aspiration to begin with. However, I am here, and I thank God for that. When I first arrived, I faced many challenges: a new language, a new culture, no close relatives near-by, and many other things. I knew my family and I would have better opportunities, education, financial stability, and many more things that were almost impossible to attain in my hometown.

One of the many great outcomes that happened from my relocation to the United States was securing a career at Nosco. Before Nosco, I had many jobs. These jobs I simply did to earn money. I showed up, did what I was instructed to do, and went home. I worked for people I had never met and never cared to meet. The only people ever benefiting from the jobs I did were the owners, and I did not care whether the business succeeded or failed because I knew those jobs would have little impact on my future life.

At Nosco however, I am part of the process for creating a product that can mean life or death for someone. When I come into work, I don't come dragging my feet on Monday wishing Friday was the next day. I come in knowing that what I do is important, and that fuels me to do more than what is simply in my job description. Another thing that has motivated me is Holden's Employee Stock Ownership Program (ESOP.) When I first applied at Nosco, I did not know it was an ESOP company; I did not even know what ESOP meant! Fortunately, I had a good boss and co-workers who were willing to explain what ESOP meant for Nosco employees. The concept of ESOP really blew my mind. To think that I'm working in a place where every contribution that I make benefits not only my present and future, but the present and future of every other employee owner and their families. This is something that changes the concept of work into a calling and a career. It transforms the meaning of work into something much deeper and that provides a long-lasting satisfaction.

My time at Nosco has taught me skills I did not have before, given me experiences I could never have imagined, a life that I never dreamt of, and allowed me to build great connections. Nosco has bettered me as a professional and working within Holden Industries is really a privilege. My career as an employee owner provides a multitude of experiences and learning that will continue to empower my professional life for many years to come. I am proud to say that Nosco has become my career, not my job.