



**Akansha Deshpande**  
**Product Development Fellow**

*Product development shop*

*"I have always been interested in healthcare and medicine, but I didn't want to pursue the traditional medical school path. I found the soft sciences interesting, but I wasn't passionate enough about the field to make a career out of it. That's when I discovered biomedical engineering. It was the perfect in between that allowed me to impact healthcare on a broader scale by developing life-saving medical devices."*

Akansha is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering at Worcester Polytechnic University with a plan to graduate in May 2021. She has always been interested in the crossover between engineering and healthcare, specifically when it comes to Global Health, and hopes to work in R&D at a medical device company to follow a career path that will allow her to help the most people, so she hopes her fellowship experience will allow her to learn how companies engineer products with a cause or client need in mind.

During the summer of 2019 Akansha spent 7 weeks in Asuncion, Paraguay working with TECHO, a youth led non-profit volunteer organization working in Latin America and the Caribbean to overcome poverty in slums. She worked in the small underprivileged community of Santa Ana to promote sustainable community development.

As a first-generation American, Akansha's parents have been her inspiration. They moved from India to ensure their children would have every opportunity and have been unconditional in their support.

Akansha sees learning to use constantly advancing technology in the right way to be the greatest challenge to her generation.

For twelve years Akansha practiced a style of Indian classical dance called Bharatanatyam and hopes to see the world in the future and experience as many places and cultures as possible. Her personal motto is "with a gracious and kindly heart."