But for Ohio State

I was born and raised in a small farming community near Wooster, Ohio and started my studies at Ohio State’s Agricultural Technical Institute. I then transferred to the Mansfield branch and eventually landed in Columbus. I graduated from Ohio State in 1991 with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Public Relations.

I currently live and work in Shanghai, where I serve as vice president for Asia sourcing with Lowe’s Home Improvement. In many ways Shanghai reminds me of Ohio State—there is great diversity in the people and so many awesome opportunities to experience.

I am incredibly fortunate to be able to see the variety of ways people accomplish and approach their work, to have exposure to different cultures, customs and histories, and to be part of a rapidly evolving economy. I can easily say that my time at Ohio State shaped me for my future in international business. Being able to understand and appreciate different perspectives and how things work in other parts of the world keeps the mind open, and an open mind will almost always come up with a better solution.

Today, the world is so much more connected than it was when I was a student. Communications, electronic financial transactions, and most business activities happen in real time. Change happens quickly and you cannot afford to miss a beat. I absolutely believe that students who have international experiences are more competitive in today’s job market. In addition to its strong academics, Ohio State is one of the largest and most diverse universities in the world and it teaches students how to succeed in life. The Ohio State experience is very similar to working in a large, multinational organization because of the many great people, opportunities and experiences that are available. What you can do with all of this is totally up to you; the sky’s the limit.