CAREER FOCUS: MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Dennis fixes machines when they malfunction at the Green Bank Observatory.

When have you had to fix something that went wrong?
What was your process? Did you jump right in, or plan it out?

What does an engineer do?
Dennis is the Observatory’s mechanical division head. He designs new machines, and repairs them when they break.

What makes a good engineer?
The best engineers are curious, love machines, and have a passion for seeing their designs become reality. Most have at least a bachelor’s degree in engineering, which requires a lot of math, problem solving, and teamwork.

How do I become an engineer?
If you want to become an engineer, start with understanding the things around you! Take apart old devices (safely), try to understand the physics of structures you see, and work with your hands as much as possible.