Being an engineer is a tough task, the world is changing fast, and sometimes we don’t even realize what’s going on around us. There are electric cars on the highways, wallets for virtual money, high-speed Internet connections in our hands, artificial intelligence recognizing faces or voices, emoticons replacing words, and more. The innovations that have emerged in the last decade include engineering as an essential part of their invention.

This revolution is just starting, and it’s not a surprise that the world needs new engineers who are capable of managing current technologies and designing new innovations for the future. This is an excellent time for you to decide what you want to do with your life—after you earn your degree—because every day it becomes more difficult to stand out in the market.

Making a big decision like this is not easy, but life is about taking risks. I have a personal mantra that has worked for me for a long time, and it can work for you: “Do not waste time dreaming of great far-away opportunities; start to work and improve yourself right now. Someday, a small opportunity will come, and those are often the beginning of great and amazing things.”

We also have different resources in which we can find the support needed to keep going. The IEEE is one in which you will find personal and professional satisfaction.

When you get involved in the IEEE, you will make friends around the world, many of whom have dreams like yours. You will likely also meet professors from the best universities who are ready and willing to guide you on your journey. But the most important thing is to make a decision, take the risk, and start; only then will you find your path.

The advantages of our generation are many: information is easily accessible from almost everywhere, so we can learn anything whenever we want and wherever we are located. This allows us to be more creative, able to invent new businesses without borders, and/or work for a company while being located outside of a physical office. Facebook Cofounder and Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg once said, “The biggest risk is not taking any risk … in a world that is changing really quickly, the only strategy that is guaranteed to fail is not taking risks.” Take advantage of your opportunities right now, because this is our generation’s moment.

Do you remember Barney Stinson from the television comedy How I Met Your Mother? One of his most memorable phrases was “challenge accepted,” so if you accept the challenge, it’s going to be “legen … wait for it … dary.” Legendary! Good luck.

About the author
Cristian Quintero (cristianquintero@ieee.org) is the student editor of IEEE Potentials.