

# “The opportunities at Yaskawa are immense. All I’ve ever seen is opportunity.”

- IZAEL ZAPATA  
PRODUCT ENGINEER

## CAPITALIZING ON OPPORTUNITY

Izrael Zapata says the best part of his job is not knowing what he doesn't know . . . yet.

You see, Izrael is part of the six-person motion product engineering group at Yaskawa.

His team's job is to certify prototypes before they advance through the company's design process.

“We're basically playing with a product that nobody knows about yet. We get to figure out how that stuff works,” Izrael said. “In some cases, we are working on technology that nobody in the world knows about yet. As an engineer that's very appealing.”

In fact, the job plays right into Izrael's desire to always be learning.

“I'm always looking to learn something new,” he said. “I like to look at different types of products, servo amplifiers, controllers, many types of motors and custom solutions. It's especially important to me because we get to do this work for big customers like Samsung and Fuji. We were even involved with the Microsoft glasses.”

“It's just really cool to have the opportunity to see new stuff that nobody else know is coming.”

Izrael started his career as intern at Yaskawa in 2015, while still attending Milwaukee School of Engineering full time.

“My story is a little uncommon,” he said. “I always worked while still going to school full time. I'd do 20 to 25 hours a week at my job and still take a full class load.”

Izrael is now an electrical engineer for Yaskawa.

“I was fortunate during my internship to meet a lot of people. A lot of managers. We did a lot of event-type stuff. One time at Navy Pier, I was lucky enough to sit next to a senior manager

of motion products. We got to have a long chat. He told me he was looking for someone to fill a role, and that he was willing to bring me in part time while I finished school. What a great feeling to know I had a job waiting for me as I started my last year of school.”

Izrael describes himself on his LinkedIn page as: “Someone who strives to be the best he can be through hard work, strong work ethic, humility and determination.”

“I came to the US from the best engineering school in Peru in 2010, but I didn't know any English. It was humbling experience. I really came here to learn English. But I quickly decided I wanted to stay. So, I took lots of jobs to support myself. I was a housekeeper. Worked in restaurants. I did what I had to do,” he said.

“I was a pretty good student in Peru, but I became a lot better here. I couldn't fail. I refused to go back. At many points during my journey, it was hard. I could've gone back to dad and mom, but I made it a challenge. I wanted to be the best I could be.”

“It paid off because all of that led me to Yaskawa. The opportunities here are immense. All I've ever seen is opportunity.”

