In a hello I am professor Rick jurors and I'd like to give you a little bit of background about myself sometimes it's good to know something about your professor as you progress through course in future sessions I will be sharing some of my real world experiences with you to help you understand topics let's get started who is Rick jurors will begin with my name I do prefer Rick and set a Richard and my last name is pronounced jurors as in New Jersey just leave off the EY I was born and raised in Chicago Illinois some people have told me that they can recognize this from my accent I grew up in the northwest side of Chicago a community called Albany Park I went to Hibbard elementary von Steuben middle school and Roosevelt high school in my youth I was always interested in sports and outdoors in high school I was on the swim team and tennis team and in college I became a very good ping-pong player in high school my greatest interest was in mathematics I recall always being a good student and in high school I graduated in nearly the top of my class I was a hard worker and worked every summer starting at about the age of 13 my goal was to get a good education and do well in life at about age 10 I had this dream to get a college education my parents were not wealthy so I knew that in order to get an education I would have to work hard and save my money my dream came true during my senior year in high school when I was accepted to Illinois Institute of technology I graduated from IIT with a BS in industrial engineering I paid for this education with my own hard earned money in order to have a good life I knew I would be working in business while an undergraduate student I developed this second goal of getting an MBA I started my MBA while I was an undergraduate student at IIT I continued it at the University of Northern Iowa and eventually I received my MBA from St. Ambrose University I never thought of going any further educationally however when I was in my mid-30s my wife convinced me to pursue a PhD I was accepted into the PhD program at Ohio State but after changing jobs found myself in the PhD program at the University of Iowa I finished my PhD there in industrial engineering my PhD dissertation involved a new method of analyzing process alternatives relative to my work experience I have spent about half my life working in industry and half my life teaching I sometimes wonder where did this all began well it was with teaching at about age 13 I was hired as a swim instructor teaching hope maybe 5 to 10-year-olds how to swim during the summer I did this for a couple years after the age of 16 each summer I found employment at different companies including the Playboy distribution center where my father was the warehouse manager Mitel machine a company that manufactured machines that would straighten coiled steel and Continental can which produced waxed paper cups when I was a sophomore in high school my mother took an interest in many kinds of arts and crafts I took an interest in candlemaking thinking that I might be able to sell enough candles to pay my way through college so I started my own candlemaking business and did this for about five years and made enough money to pay for my college having a candlemaking business not only provided funds for college but it also gave me a good perspective of how businesses operate when I was going into my junior year of college at IIT I decided to sign up for the co-op program thinking that it would be good to get some real business experience before graduation I remember the day that the co-op supervisor at IIT called me into her office and told me that John Deere in Waterloo Iowa wanted to interview me I knew nothing about farming tractors and Iowa but the pay was very good I went on the interview and got the job it was great during my four semesters as a co-op student with deer I spent time in every department in the shop and foundry and worked in about a half a dozen engineering departments right before graduation the John do component works made me an offer I could not refuse they said Rick as a co-op student you have worked in nearly every engineering department which one do you want to work in full time I said manufacturing research and development they replied with what is your second choice most people in manufacturing R&D have at least 10 years of experience I said my second choice would be plant layout a couple weeks went by and my co-op supervisor came back and said Rick guess what I spoke with the manager of manufacturing R&D and he wants to hire you in this job I worked as a project manager investigating new manufacturing equipment one of my projects involved the application of industrial robots I found a good application and this became the first robot application at the Waterloo component works industrial robot technology was new and I was told that the John deer administrative center in Moline Illinois wanted to hire somebody to work with this technology exclusively I interviewed for the job and got it and basically became an internal consultant to call John Deere factories for industrial robots eventually the department that I was working in at the administrative center was moved to the John Deere technical center I continued working with industrial robot technology and also got involved with some other interesting technologies industrial vision systems computer networks computer aided process planning systems and automated inspection systems the management at the technical center saw my interest in computer-based technologies and my ability to work well with people and asked me to be in charge of the computer operations this was an exciting time personal computers minicomputers and mainframes computers were being integrated into networking solutions I was in this position for a couple years my last job with John Deere was in the finance department at the administrative center they needed help installing a computer network for financial services and they needed their people trained to use it effectively technology by itself is not good unless you get your employees to use it I remember in my interview with the chief financial officer him saying to me right down the hall I have some great computer scientist who really know computers but none of them have an MBA you do and therefore I'd like to hire you into my department sometimes you may wonder if your education will really ever help without my MBA I would not have gotten this promotion the 1980s were tough years for John Deere agriculture was very slow no one was getting hired or promoted and raises were small I decided to leave John Deere and work for a small manufacturing company in Columbus Ohio this job turned out to be a bad move so I decided to look for another job and I found myself leaving industry to teach for St. Ambrose University I want to mention also that in about 1985 I and a friend started a business called software generation specializing in developing and using sports software initially we hope that this would become a big business but is is proven to remain a small side interest to both me and my partner for software generation I did all the computer programming and learned a lot about databases and how to program in SQL my college teaching work experience began with St. Ambrose I actually taught as an adjunct or part-time instructor while I was still working for John Deere I enjoyed teaching and thought that someday I might want to do this full time while I was looking for a new job in Columbus Ohio I made a connection with St. Ambrose University and they offered me a full-time teaching position in industrial engineering I am now approaching nearly 20 years of teaching at St. Ambrose about half of these years have been teaching courses in engineering including engineering graphics and computer-aided design problem-solving with microcomputers manufacturing processes and computer integrated manufacturing the latter half of my years at St. Ambrose have been teaching operations management and business statistics in the College of business I have also had the pleasure of teaching as a part-time professor intermittently at the University of Iowa I have taught manufacturing processes and designed for manufacturing for the College of engineering and more recently operations management for the College of business as I reflect upon all of my work experience both in industry and in academia I think my common theme has always been my interest in using technology to improve operations my professional interests continue to include manufacturing technologies and more specifically process evaluation and selection computer technologies and for teaching various teaching technologies you can get additional information about my interest and see some of these technologies on my website I have lived the first part of my life in Chicago Illinois in the latter part of my life in the quad cities which includes Rock Island Bettendorf Davenport and Moline I lived in Columbus Ohio for a year and a half and I currently live and have been living in a clear I walked for about 10 years I designed and built the house I'm living in acting as a general contractor I am very happily married and have two children of my own and two stepchildren I am very fortunate to have a great family some of my personal activities and interest include tennis skiing travel spending time with my family and working on home improvement projects thanks for taking your time to spend a few moments with me I hope you have enjoyed what I have shared with you if you ever do my help or have any questions please let me know