



Heidi Strobl

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Describe your overall duties/responsibilities as a Water Resource Staff Designer II:

As a Staff Designer in the Water Resource Department at T&M Associates, it is my job to support the project/client manager throughout the design and implementation phases of a project. I create plan sets in Civil3D that conform to our clients' needs and standards. I also create exhibits in GIS (Geographic Information System) for proposals that visually represent the area in question and the overall technical approach needed to complete the project. It is important that I understand stormwater calculations to properly size underground pipes to ensure that they will perform under various storm conditions. Depending on the needs of the company, I also assist in other departments, such as the Environmental Department, where I turn sampling data from wells into a presentable format.

Explain the skills/abilities that are required for being successful in your role:

Verbal communication is such an important part of my role at T&M. Since all projects have a deadline and a budget, the project manager and I will communicate about the parameters of the project, addressing the specifics of each task, timeline and budget, as well as project overview. It is extremely important for communication to occur at every level for a project to be successful. We often collaborate with other engineering

firms on many of our projects, and without strong communication skills, it would be impossible to work efficiently with other companies. Specifically, as a Staff Designer II, I must also have excellent skills with Civil3D and GIS to fulfill my current role. Possessing a solid technical background will help me in the future as a project manager or a technical specialist.

What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Civil Engineering?

When I was first accepted into Civil Engineering (CE), I had no idea of all the areas it had to offer, whether that be construction, geotechnical, structural, transportation, or water resource engineering, I think it is helpful to take a few classes in each specialization so that you can get a feel for which one really suits you and your goals. It is also very important to get internships in a few different specialties of CE so that you know what each career specialization entails. Also, never turn down an internship opportunity because it isn't in the specialty you are looking for, you might end up loving that field. Lastly, networking is very important. As soon as you start your college career, create a LinkedIn and keep track of important projects and connections you make; you never know how those could benefit you in the future.

