



Syn Dee Chua

B.S. in Civil Engineering (2014)
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Describe your overall duties/responsibilities as an Assistant Project Manager:

I work with a Project Manager and various Project Superintendents on a daily basis and as a team we manage the various heavy civil and site development construction projects for the company. My work involves a mixture of time spent in the office and in the field, and includes a lot of coordination and communication with many different parties involved on a construction project. I often work closely with not just the construction crews performing the work, but also construction managers, owners, design architects/engineers, and subcontractors for each project to coordinate work activities, address the administrative aspects of a project, and tackle constructability challenges that arise as construction progresses.

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

As engineers and managers, being able to communicate a technical problem to non-technical people is a valuable skill. With that being said, treating people with respect and being humble (as proud as we are to be engineers) can go a long way - sometimes it is as simple as admitting that you don't know or that you do not have all the answers. Having a good relationship with the people you work with can be beneficial in many ways – for any job or career. In my case, it is

not just my fellow colleagues in the office. I have a lot of respect for my colleagues who are out on the field with their boots in the mud, who are actually doing the construction work. They have a wealth of knowledge that I do not, and I rely on them and their experiences for me to do my job successfully.

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

If you are trying to figure out if civil engineering is right for you, think beyond roads, bridges and buildings as the only things civil engineers work on. In this day and age, it's so much more than that. Think land surveying, laying underground pipeline networks, redesigning road traffic signal systems, creating the next most-sustainable building material, LIDAR mapping, and 4D construction project scheduling. The list is always expanding as science and technology develops! Civil engineers solve a whole range of problems that people take for granted each day. It's important to dig deep into the huge variety of things that civil engineers do and find something you're interested in but more importantly, something that you are fascinated about. Be constantly curious about the world we live in everyday!

