Describe your overall duties/responsibilities as a Capital Projects Engineer:

I report to the COO as a Project Manager and Project Engineer for all of our Capital Improvements. My responsibilities include preliminary studies, permitting, estimating, design, construction, and project management. Specific types of projects I work on are small waterline extension/relocations, transmission lines, elevated water storage tanks, booster pumping stations, and hydraulic modeling. I am often externally coordinating with OEPA, USACE, counties/townships, ODOT, consulting engineers, contractors, vendors, and water customers. Additionally, I work with the GIS, Maintenance, Distribution, and Administration departments.

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

Working with a variety of individuals with different backgrounds requires strong communication skills. Understand that industry terminology may change from group to group and can be based on settings too (ex. field vs office). Don’t be shy to ask for explanations and examples to get a point across. Once everyone is on the same page, it is then easier to define project scope, action items from each team member, due dates, budgets, and overall timeline.

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

Even after deciding what your specialization will be, do not shy away from taking some classes in the other specializations as well. When working professionally in a non-specialized role, you will come across a variety of different civil engineering concepts/fundamentals whether those are geotechnical, structural, surveying, etc. Lastly, remember to remain curious and open to continuous learning throughout your entire career.