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Candidate for the 2017
Allen D. Williams Scholarship

Essay

The engineering industry has immense societal impact: it facilitates public welfare, safety, and economic prosperity through projects such as the *Powell Street Overpass*, where, as Utility Design Lead, I contributed to improved safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and commuters, and the *Port Mann/ Highway 1 Improvements*, where, as East Segment Utility Lead Designer, I helped achieve increased traffic capacity and goods movement on the largest transportation project in BC's history. I feel privileged to have a career in engineering with McElhanney, where I improve the quality of life for fellow community members. This positive impact increases my desire to connect with other young professionals (YPs) to further inspire pride in their own work.

Working for McElhanney has allowed me to be part of several impactful design-build transportation projects in the Lower Mainland with demanding design schedules that required innovative solutions. These projects helped me grow my leadership skills greatly. My communication skills and commitment to producing high quality work allowed me to become a Design Coordinator on the *Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project*, with 10 designers reporting to me. This foundational experience led me to proudly become a Project Manager in McElhanney's design-build/P3 division, responsible for managing portions of larger design-build projects (such as the *Interchange at PTH59/101 and Intersection Upgrades at PTH59N/PR202* in Winnipeg). These projects provide infrastructure for citizens and businesses, and generate work for my team. I am thriving in this new role and am excited at the possibility of receiving this scholarship and enrolling in the FIDIC Management Training Program to build on my leadership skills.

Besides providing opportunities to work on interesting projects, McElhanney also ensures junior staff receive career development opportunities, with a strong YP program that inspired me to join

provincial and national consulting associations. Last year I applied my leadership skills as Chair of the ACEC-BC Young Professionals' Group (YPG) while learning from industry leaders and representing YPs. I successfully implemented YPG goals and upheld our mission to promote and empower YPs in their industry and career.

My work to achieve the ACEC-BC Board's approval of the *Budget Increase and Fundraising Initiative Proposals* in January 2015 allowed the YPG to host outreach activities, sponsor university events, and fundraise for school programs, such as *Geering Up: UBC Engineering & Science for Kids* and *Scientists & Innovators in the Schools*, which promote science and engineering to BC children and youth. Being actively involved in consulting associations and my community allows me to lead by example, and to engage and mentor YPs at McElhanney and industry-wide. Investing in youth and YPs ensures the development of the next generation of leaders in consulting engineering.

Representing BC at the ACEC Young Professional Network (YPN) also allows me to connect with our national YP organization and share ideas with regional groups, and to implement global ideas at the provincial level, ensuring highest value to members. The Allen D. Williams scholarship would enable me to connect on a global level with industry leaders, to understand cultural influence on the consulting business, and to discuss creative solutions for solving some of today's complex global problems, all while acting as an ambassador for ACEC-BC's YPG and ACEC's YPN.

Being nominated for this scholarship by the leaders of my company is a great honour. To follow in their footsteps will not be easy, but being awarded the scholarship will give me the necessary skills to one day be recognized as a leader at McElhanney and within the industry, making positive changes that benefit not only consulting engineers but society as a whole.

Summary of Extracurricular & Volunteer Activities

Volunteering/Leadership within Consulting Industry

ACEC-BC: Young Professionals Group (YPG)

- 2015-present: Past Chair of YPG – provides support and guidance to current Provincial Chair.
- 2014-15: YPG Provincial Chair – led a project to update all YPG documents to reflect current practices, initiated the development of the “3 Year Plan” which allows the YPG to execute initiatives that span multiple committee terms and have clear, long-term vision. Wrote three Letters from the Editor for YPG newsletters.
- 2015: Represented YPG at the University of British Columbia’s Engineering Career Fair – promoted ACEC-BC among engineering students and created awareness of careers in consulting engineering.
- 2015: Wrote an editorial about the ACEC Summit and National Convention held in Niagara Falls for the first quarter YPG newsletter.
- 2014-present: ACEC representative – communicated national initiatives and activities to YPG, including the ACEC Engineering Student YouTube Contest and ACEC Summit program.
- 2013-14: Provincial Communications Role – promoted YPG events and developed the YPG Executive Manual, which reflects ACEC-BC’s strategic priorities and provides a framework for the YPG.
- 2014: Wrote “Procurement of Professional Consulting Services in Public Sector,” which was later published in the third quarter YPG newsletter.
- 2013-14: Assisted in developing the YPG quarterly newsletter into a learning and information sharing tool; recruited authors to write on business-related issues in the consulting engineering industry.

ACEC: Young Professionals Network (YPN)

- 2014-present: Represents BC at the YPN, ensures information sharing between ACEC-BC YPG and ACEC YPN, and assists in the development of the annual YP business program at the ACEC Summit.
- 2014-present: Student Outreach Advisory Group Member – participates in creating guidelines and

judging criteria for the ACEC Engineering Student YouTube Contest, communicates the contest to ACEC-BC YPG and local universities, and acts as a member of the judging panel. Participated in a workshop to improve the Engineering Legacies website and develop new outreach initiatives.

- 2010-14: Attended four ACEC Summits. Presented at the 2014 ACEC Young Professionals Program in Winnipeg and the 2015 ACEC Young Professionals Program in Niagara Falls. Spoke to national YPs about ACEC-BC YPG’s activities and initiatives.

Volunteering/Leadership within McElhanney

- 2015: Organized McElhanney’s participation in the Engendering Engineering Success (EES) program, which aims to identify what organizational practices best predict an inclusive and supportive workplace culture. Identified individuals to participate in the study and coordinated with EES team. Participated in the study.
- 2014-15: Co-presented at the APEGBC Municipal Engineering Division Conference and TAC Conference on the Powell Street Overpass Project (which was designed by McElhanney.)
- 2013-14: McElhanney Young Professionals Committee Member – developed the YP Rotational Program curriculum while promoting challenging, rewarding, and long-standing careers with McElhanney.
- 2013: presented to co-workers on the 2013 ACEC Summit and National Convention held at Lake Louise.

Volunteering within Community

- 2014-16: Mentor volunteer with KidStart. Acted as a mentor to a nine-year old for three hours per week. Encouraged her to develop her interests, supported her learning and skill building, and helped her discover new, engaging activities in our community.
- 2015: Organized YPs to volunteer at the eight-week SciTech summer camp. Developed a schedule for volunteers and chose the engineering activity for the camp. Volunteered at two workshops.