

# Application for the 2016 Allen D. Williams Scholarship Award



My career in consulting started in 2004, as a student, where I spent two work terms with Associated Engineering providing construction inspection and survey for land development and infrastructure projects. My positive and rewarding experience as a student confirmed my desire to pursue a career in consulting engineering with Associated Engineering, and to focus my career on infrastructure engineering.

I believe that infrastructure is the foundation for economic development for municipalities and industries. Our water, sewer, transportation, building, and energy infrastructure is not only the basis for economic growth, but also for public health and quality of life.

I have gained technical expertise in municipal infrastructure design and project management from participation in feasibility studies, infrastructure assessments, detailed design, and contract administration projects. My experience includes land development, water supply, sanitary sewer, storm drainage, roadways, infrastructure renewal, sewage lagoons, and large horizontal directional drilling projects.

Since 2007, much of my work has been with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. This Municipality is rapidly growing and their needs are very unique. The centre of the oil and gas industry in Alberta, the municipality has a large infrastructure deficit due to the growth of the oil industry and associated permanent and transient population growth. The result is fast-paced project delivery requirements to address their annual \$450 million capital budget. Combined with the complexity of projects, the challenges of project delivery in northern climates, and the competitive construction market, work in Wood Buffalo is challenging, exciting, and rewarding, while giving me, as a young professional, an excellent opportunity to grow. As a design engineer, project engineer, and project manager, I have participated in infrastructure development projects that have paved the way for much needed housing and industrial developments in the community. I am particularly proud that my work, as part of the Saline Creek Plateau Offsite Water and Sewer Servicing project team, received the North American Society for Trenchless Technology NW Chapter (NASTT-NW) 2014 Project of the Year award.

I am a strong advocate for the trenchless engineering and construction industry. Trenchless technology provides a sustainable approach to renewing and building infrastructure and assists our clients to achieve their

goals while protecting the environment, minimizing impacts to surrounding residents and businesses, and preventing damage to existing infrastructure. I believe trenchless technologies are critical to sustainable delivery of infrastructure for towns, municipalities and cities.

My interest in trenchless technologies led me to be an active member in the North American Society for Trenchless Technology to promote trenchless engineering through conferences and publications. I have written papers, presented at conferences, and helped to organize conferences on trenchless technologies. I believe networking and professional and community involvement shapes leaders and strengthens our consulting industry.

I set a high standard for myself and my work, as I believe this is the cornerstone for quality-based delivery in the consulting engineering industry. Consulting engineers impact the way we live, build communities; renew infrastructure; provide safe drinking water and proper wastewater treatment; and protect the environment. The need to renew and upgrade infrastructure is a critical task in which we, as consultants, play a primary role. Infrastructure renewal and upgrades come at a high price; therefore, we, as trusted leaders, need to work with our governments and clients to ensure we develop sustainable approaches to address the long term needs of society.

I am passionate about the engineering profession and committed to professional growth, not only for myself, but also for my peers and for junior staff. I believe mentoring is important to develop technical skills and business acumen, and to succeed in becoming a trusted leader. I have been fortunate to gain skills from my mentors. I am now mentoring young engineers. It's exciting and rewarding to be able to pass the skills I have learned onto others.

I'm proud and humbled to be nominated for the Allen D. Williams Scholarship Award. Becoming a trusted leader at Associated Engineering and the consulting industry is my key career objective. Obtaining this Scholarship Award provides me with the confidence that I am on the right track to achieving my career goals.

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