



2013 Allen D. Williams Scholarship: Candidate Essay

Nominee: Selena Rose Wilson, P.Eng.

I feel very privileged to be a part of the Canadian Consulting Engineering industry. As a young Consulting Engineer, I have had many opportunities to make a positive impact through my work as a Transportation Engineer at McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd., and with Young Professionals Groups (YPGs) at the provincial, national, and international levels.

Through my involvement with these organizations, I have strived to effectively contribute to the Consulting Engineering community, as demonstrated in the attached list of Extracurricular & Volunteer Activities. I have also seen firsthand the many benefits of engaging the youth of our industry. Now more than ever, it is critical to engage the younger generation to help solve the increasingly complex problems our civilization faces worldwide, such as poverty, climate change, and the depletion of natural resources. I am passionate about engaging Young Professionals (YPs) in these discussions and strengthening the global presence of YPs.

Since 2008, I have been a steering committee member with the ACEC-BC Young Professionals Group, the ACEC Young Professional Network, and the FIDIC Young Professionals Forum Steering Committee (YPFSC). Most recently, I was elected Chair of the FIDIC YPFSC; I am currently serving a two-year term that will conclude at FIDIC's 2014 Annual Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

It is an honour to represent Canadian YPs at the international level. As Chair of the FIDIC YPFSC, I am in a position to effectively execute the goals that the YPFSC will be working hard to deliver over the next two years. This role will also provide me with the opportunity to learn from global leaders and to demonstrate my own leadership skills as Committee Chair. These achievements align with my long-term career goals of becoming a leader in my firm and giving back to the industry by promoting a sustainable future generation of Consulting Engineers.

My goal as Chair of the FIDIC YPFSC is to provide a platform that promotes and empowers YPs around the world, to enable them to realize their own potential as leaders within the industry and society. The YP movement within the Consulting Engineering industry has had a large impact on the industry, and I am extremely proud to be a part of it. Since FIDIC established the YPF in 2006, there has been a movement towards more countries starting their own YPGs. The YPFSC is striving to continue this trend, to encourage all Member Associations to embrace YPGs and recognize their fundamental importance in developing the future of our industry. Our current initiatives involve developing regional YPFs within the Asia-Pacific (ASPAC), Africa (GAMA), and European (EFCA) FIDIC Member Associations. I have initiated a reference document, currently in development, that will provide inspiration and assistance for Member Associations that wish to start a YPG.

YPGs help enrich and develop the skills of the younger generation of Consulting Engineers to prepare them for today and tomorrow's challenges. They provide opportunities to future leaders by facilitating activities that will enrich their careers and allow them to become actively involved in the Consulting Engineering community. YPGs strengthen Member Organizations by providing education and awareness to their YPs, and guiding them to succeed their leaders in the near future. I am passionate about helping to provide opportunities that promote the development of tomorrow's leaders.

ACEC and its provincial Member Organizations have created a strong YP community within Canada, setting a precedent for many up-and-coming FIDIC Member Organizations worldwide. The support and development I have gained from my involvement in YPGs in Canada continues to provide me with inspiration that directly influences the international YP community. Attending the 2014 FIDIC Conference in Rio de Janeiro will allow me to share the accomplishments of the ACEC YPs and draw on my Canadian YP experience to provide valuable insight, ideas, and opinions on a global platform.

Since joining FIDIC's YPFSC in 2008, I have been directly involved with planning the YP programs for past Conferences in London, Delhi, Davos, and Seoul, the latter as incoming Chair of the YPFSC. FIDIC strongly supports YPs' involvement throughout the Conference and relies on the YPFSC to design an effective and engaging program that provides a platform for future industry leaders. The YPFSC has continually produced quality events such as the YP Forums, technical tours, and meetings with the FIDIC Executive Committee. As a result, we have seen our support within the FIDIC community strengthen each year.

As Chair of FIDIC's YPFSC, I will be leading the planning of the YP program for the 2014 Annual Conference. With the momentum that YPs are gaining with each FIDIC Conference, I am striving to make the 2014 YP program the strongest in FIDIC's history. My goal for the Conference is to help create an event that will leave a lasting impression in the Consulting Engineering industry, to open dialogue between multiple generations, and to encourage the future leaders of our industry to make their voices heard.