

Brandon Hill

Oregon State University

Allen A. Alsing Scholarship

I was born in Astoria, Oregon on Nov. 16, 1991. My family soon moved to Rainier, Oregon, in Columbia County where I spent my childhood. My father worked as Public Works Director for Columbia County, and I always looked up to him whether it was for help understanding my science and math schoolwork, or if it was help with a personal project. I always enjoyed projects with my father and other siblings, such as building additions to our family cabin (including a Sauna-house), or constructing a system to collect rainfall from our house to use as irrigation for our gardens and fruit trees. My father inspired me to pursue an education in engineering, with a goal to work for a public works department after receiving a bachelor's degree. Throughout high school, my favorite classes were all the science classes, with physics topping the list. In that class, I loved the hands-on experiments that illustrated the concepts we were learning at the time. One of my favorite "experiments" was designing a contraption to shoot or throw objects. I constructed a 6-foot tall catapult that could throw a baseball $\frac{3}{4}$ of a football field. As a class field trip, the entire class took their contraptions to Providence Park in Portland, where we used our devices to throw t-shirts into the crowd.



Since graduating high school in 2010, each summer I have worked with various public works and construction companies. I have worked at the private level with Strata Corporation in Minot, North Dakota, at a concrete and soil recycling/processing plant on the Minot Air Force Base. I have worked at the city level with the City of Saint Helens Public Works, and I have also worked at the county level with Columbia County Public Works. This past summer I spent an internship working as civil engineering intern for the Linn County Road Department in Albany, where I was primarily working on a roadway widening and realignment on a 12-mile stretch of county road. During my internship, I also gained experience with surveying, traffic counters, construction inspections, and communicating between workers in the field and engineers in the office.

In 2014, I received my associate transfer degree in engineering from Lower Columbia College in Longview, Washington, while also receiving the outstanding student award for engineering. I transferred to Oregon State University the following fall, and have since been working toward my bachelors of Civil Engineering, which I expect to attain in June 2017.