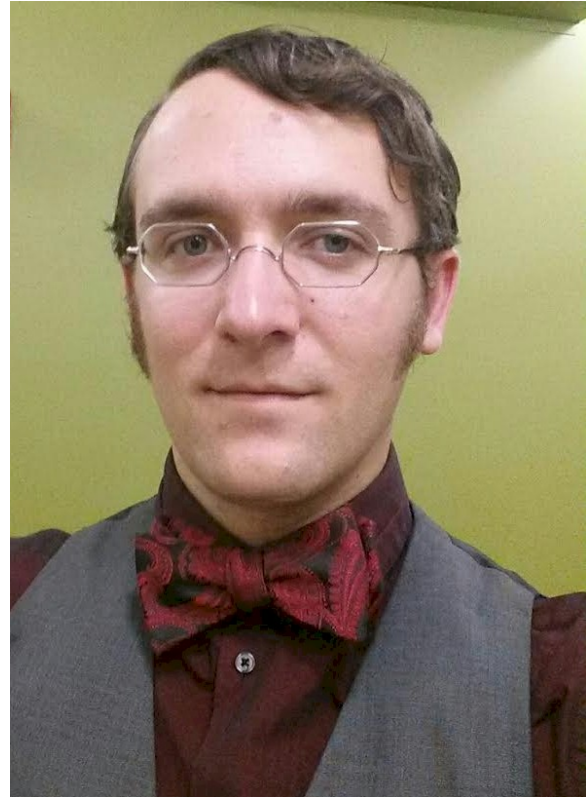


Thomas Torkelson

Portland State University

Throughout my life, I have always been interested in building and constructing and bringing aspirations and ideas to life. After living in Portland for several years, the awe-inspiring infrastructure of this city has allowed me to appreciate the contribution civil engineers offer to our society and has inspired myself to become a part of this service to our community. In 2011, I decided to make that a part of my livelihood and embark on the journey of becoming a professional engineer.

As a first-generation college student, I could not afford to become a full-time student. I continued to work full-time while attending community college and was able to transfer to PSU as a junior. After years of saving and with the assistance from APWA and other scholarship donors, I will be able to finish my bachelor's degree in 2017 as a full-time student.



After completing my degree, I plan to gain my experience in the field and in several years' time, serve the public as a professional civil engineer.

All of this wouldn't be possible without generous organizations such as the APWA. Thanks again for your support!