

SCHOLARSHIPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We've often wondered how we can get young people interested in a career in public works and how we can help support them. One of our scholarship recipients, Dominique 'Niki' Stephanson, attended our fall conference in Pendleton and, through her background, provides some insight into these questions.

Niki is currently a senior in Portland State University's Civil and Environmental Engineering program. She attended high school in Aloha, Oregon, and received her Associates Degree at Portland Community College. Her interest in engineering

began to take form at an early age, when she was "turned on" to science and math by enthusiastic educators and the Pacific University Summer Science Camp for girls. Through her career, Niki hopes to facilitate healthier, smarter, solutions to global challenges and to support other prospective students in discovering and realizing their goals.

Niki has already gained hands-on experience through an internship at Washington State DOT and is currently working as a geotechnical intern at URS Corporation. She continues to develop professional networks through involvement in service organizations, such as American Society of Civil Engineers, Society for Women Engineers and Young Women in Math and Science. Through these organizations, she has worked to develop programs, such as Zoom Into Engineering to interest young people in engineering principles, and supported the concrete canoe and steel bridge teams, learning to test and apply new theories and products in the transportation and structural fields.

Upon accepting the 2006-07 APWA scholarship, Niki writes: "It is an honor to be recognized for my hard work, and receiving this scholarship motivates me to continue to strive for excellence. I am in my final year of the engineering program at Portland State University and scholarship support will enable me to concentrate more on schoolwork without the worry of finances. Receiving the Oregon APWA scholarship is of tremendous benefit to me and has helped me to realize my dreams of becoming a civil engineer. Your generosity has made a profound impact on my life and I am truly grateful to be the recipient of your scholarship."

We were fortunate to be able to provide financial support through our Scholastic Foundation to nine students this year to help them continue their education in civil engineering and the field of public works. Congratulations to all of them.



Niki Stephanson