

## **UDOT ROTATIONAL ENGINEER**

### **BIO: Megan Leonard**

**Spring 2012**

#### **Where did you attend college and when did you graduate?**

Utah State University (Go Aggies!!). Graduated May 2009 with my Bachelor's in Civil Engineering.

#### **When did you join the rotational program at UDOT?**

May 2009

#### **What rotations have you completed?**

I was a Benefitted Intern while I was finishing my degree, and since becoming a Rotational I've been to Traffic & Safety in Region 1, Central Project Management at the Complex, Signal Operations at the TOC, Design in Region 2, and have been working in Construction at Mountain View Corridor since January 2012.

#### **Please name a few of the projects you've been involved with and some of the skills or knowledge you've gained.**

While working in Region 1, I did signal inspection and inventory where I was first introduced to signals and signal requirements. I learned patience as we tried multiple methods for keeping the inventory, and I gained experience in Microsoft Access and Google Docs.

When I was in Project Management, the project delivery network was being modified. I had never had an opportunity to work with it before, so assisting with this gave me the opportunity to not only see strategy, but to start learning the network and QA/QC procedures.

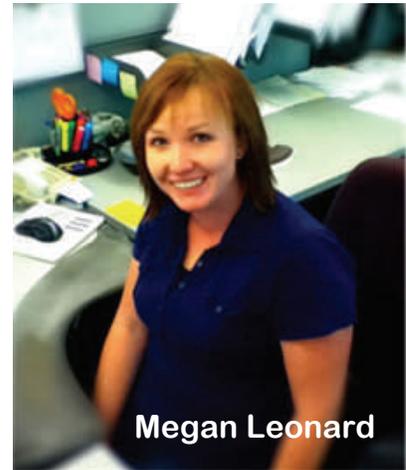
I also created training modules for ePM and gained experience in Microsoft PowerPoint.

In Signal Operations, I was able to learn the

complexities of traffic signals. I was allowed to program corridors with timing plans in Sandy and Lehi, install detection in Heber, and visit numerous locations for various other tasks. As a result of my time in Signals, I am now forever scarred when I pull up to a signal that I can tell is not functioning properly. I learned how to use Synchro, how to program signal controllers, how to field-fit timing plans, and how to install different types of detectors. In design, I worked on a rotomill and overlay on SR-248, a concrete grind on Bangerter Highway, and a pavement overlay on I-80 in Parley's Canyon. I also assisted with the designs of 5400 S widening and 13400 S CFI. I learned a lot about team work and coordination. In addition, I gained experience in policies, procedures, estimating, scheduling and running meetings, QA/QC, and Microstation.

#### **What experience has challenged you the most?**

So far, my most challenging experiences have been in design. I had no idea what went into a project from either the design or construction side, so I had to ask a lot of questions and do a lot of research. Being able to actually design



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projects is an amazing process and learning how many little details go into each project was an eye opener. From counting the number of manholes and drains, to coordinating with each discipline, design is quite the challenge but definitely a great place to put engineering skills to the test.

**What are some of the advantages of the UDOT Rotational Program?**

I would say that the biggest advantage is getting to observe a variety of disciplines and learn how they complement each other.

Other advantages are networking, learning how to be flexible in whatever work conditions you end up in, and obtaining valuable P.E. experience.

What are some of your career goals?

I want to get my P.E. and be able to use all the experience I've gained in the workplace and keep acquiring knowledge, experience, and training.

Do you know your next placement or employment situation?

I just began my construction rotation, which is intended to last for a year, so nothing else is planned at the moment.

Who are some of the people at UDOT who have provided guidance or assistance?

There are too many people to name! I have had coworkers so close that we have felt like a family and that is one thing I love about the UDOT environment. I also have fellow rotationals that I can count as friends who have helped me by using experience that they have gained from their own rotations.

I have a great respect for the rotational program. Even though it's hard to pack up every couple months and leave the friends I've made and go to something completely new, I'm grateful for the opportunity to grow and learn. I recommend this program to everyone who can apply for it. I feel like I'm trusted and treated like an actual staff member and not just a glorified intern.