

Dan Royal, P.E.

Hubbell, Roth and Clark Inc. / Engineers Without Borders Detroit Chapter

By Jennifer Zelski (Chair)
Industry Recruitment Task Force



As a Freshman at Michigan State University, environmental engineering sounded interesting so Dan signed up for an introductory civil engineering class. Despite his high hopes, Dan found the material to be rather “dull” and mostly about “moving dirt around.” It wasn’t until getting involved with the Engineers Without Borders that Dan realized that “all the dull stuff [he]

was learning in the class room could actually help people.” That was a pivotal moment in his career.

“I realized that I had an opportunity to work in an industry where I could help protect the environment here at home, while also helping the 700 million people around the world without access to drinking water. That seemed like a good deal to me.”

Fast-forward 6 years later and Dan is working as a project engineer with HRC and recently earned his P.E. As a project manager in the Process Department, Dan works on a wide variety of water and wastewater projects from design through construction;

everything from treatment facilities, pump stations, collection system work, etc. He performs CAD work, design calculations, construction engineering, modeling – basically whatever it takes to keep a project moving. Dan also continues his volunteer efforts with Engineers Without Borders, venturing to places like Nicaragua for drinking water and sanitation projects.

His favorite part of his career? (Besides working with a lot of really smart, highly experienced water professionals)

“Every day I come in to work and I’m faced with a new and interesting challenge,” says Dan. “Every community has its needs, and every plant has its quirks. Water chemistry is a complicated thing on its own, but when you add in the challenges of constructability, staying in budget, and satisfying regulators you get unique problems that tend to keep things pretty interesting.”

Dan was highly recommended for the Career Spotlight as he is an up-and-coming new professional who is quickly making a positive mark on his company and the water field. We look forward to seeing what’s next in Dan’s future and hope that his story inspires other considering environmental engineering.

For more information about Dan and other excellent Water Environment Professionals in Michigan, please check out www.h20mich.org. If you would like to recommend a Water Professional for the Career Spotlight, please contact Jennifer Zelski (jenz@hamlettenvironmental.com).

The Industry Recruitment Task Force is actively working to produce materials for use by industry professionals during tours, career fairs, presentations, etc. The career spotlight is one example of the outreach techniques being employed and will be promoted on the H20Mich website. ♦





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