



JUNE 23RD, 2021 | WEDNESDAY

CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY PODCAST

Hosted By Isaac Oakeson

CEA 88 - BECOMING A ASCE NEW FACES HONOREE WITH DANIELLE SCHROEDER

Today's guest is [Danielle Schroeder](#), an Associate Engineer for [Pennoni Associates](#) in Philadelphia and an honoree of the ASCE's 2021 New Faces of Civil Engineering. Her story into civil engineering started at a very young age. Her father, a carpenter by trade, was the first person to somewhat introduce her to a construction-related profession. Later on, she attended an engineering girl's camp as a third-year high school student. At this camp, she realized that civil engineering would be perfect for her as a career because it combines the construction aspects and the math and science background, two of the subjects she liked the most when growing up.

This realization could not lead to a different path other than pursuing a civil engineering degree in college. In fact, she went to college and got both a Bachelor and Master of Science at the same time from Drexel University in Pennsylvania. While in college she

had the opportunity to work at three very different internships, which allowed her to try different aspects of the field so that she could make a conscious decision on which branch of civil engineering she would go into.

Her first internship was in a private firm that dealt with water resources, while her second co-op was actually at the current company she is at right now, where she got to try different aspects of the job, from transportation to structures. At this point, she started considering going into transportation and highway design. However, her third and last co-op at [Jacobs Engineering](#) made her realize she didn't want to do highway design after graduation. Upon graduation, as she was trying to land a job, the structure side of the job was the one that she related to the most, and therefore, she applied for Pennoni again but requested to be in the bridge structure division.

Dani is also a huge advocate for STEM outreach among young people, particularly women, from kindergarten to 12th grade. She currently volunteers and also leads some STEM outreach events, and is also part of societies in engineering, such as the [Society of Women Engineers \(SWE\)](#) and the [American Society of Civil Engineers \(ASCE\)](#). She's been leading the [Women's Transportation Seminar's Transportation YOU Program](#) since 2018, which is a hands-on program focusing on introducing mentees to the many career pathways they can take within transportation itself as well as help them with their own personal development such as writing resumes, preparing for a job interview, and much more.

She also shares the books that helped her achieve such remarkable accomplishments throughout her relatively short career, and they are [How to Win Friends and Influence People](#), by Dale Carnegie, and [She Engineers](#), by Stephanie Lynn Slocum. As a young, bold, female engineer herself, she mentions her number one tip for other women engineers getting started with their careers or those still considering the possibility of becoming civil engineers: Take the risk.

CEA Resources:

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Ultimate Civil PE Review Course - [Link](#)

Ultimate Civil FE Review Course - [Link](#)

[Civil Engineering Academy](#) - If you need exams, solved problems, or courses, make sure to check out our home base.

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