



Celebrating WiC WEEK!

Only 9.9% of the
Construction Workforce
Is Female.

What Makes Our WiCs Tick?

Jolie Erickson, PE Project Engineer



Even before earning her PE in 2019, Jolie Erickson became an invaluable part of the machinery of F&R Fredericksburg - a regional office with a decidedly construction focused client base. A West Point graduate with a crazy mixed up degree in the arts AND engineering, Jolie understands construction and provides both geotechnical engineering and materials testing services on dozens of concurrent projects throughout central Virginia.

Was this career an accident or a plan?

JE: *It was kind of somewhere between an accident and a plan, I originally planned to major in engineering in college, but when I first got to West Point I was intimidated by the academics of it all. Although I majored in art philosophy and literature, I enjoyed statistics and dynamics so I added a civil engineering "track". After I got out of the Army I worked while my kids were small, not necessarily focusing on a "career". Once they went to kindergarten I decided to focus on that long lost love of Civil Engineering and went to Illinois Tech and got my degree.*

What are some roadblocks you have met along the way in your career/education?

JE: *Financing a college degree on my own was a real challenge and not for the faint-of-heart (or wallet). I made it to graduation on fumes after a lot of economic sacrifice.*



Why do you feel there is such a shortage of females in this industry?

JE: *Some of it is preference. Some may be not seeing a lot of other women around and not being comfortable with that. I don't really feel that the climate is that much different than in other professionals and overall I feel like those issues are getting better over time.*

What is your dream project – the type of project that just thrills you every time you get to work on one?

JE: *I like a project that is a little off the beaten path, but honestly I am just happy to be outside and not at a desk.*



If you'd like to rock the construction world like Jolie F&R has a place for you! Visit our careers page at: [FandR.com/careers](https://www.fandR.com/careers) and see how you fit into our family.



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