



## Engineers Week 2021: Meet Engineer Brandon Coleman

Published on February 26, 2021



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5 articles

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[Here's an article Shockey's Andy Graham wrote about an Engineers Week conversation he had with Engineer Brandon Coleman at HDR]

"Scientists investigate that which already is; engineers create that which has never been."  
— Albert Einstein

Our work at **Shockey Consulting** involves working with communities to explore the many possibilities for creating a better, brighter, thriving future. While these possibilities and scenarios are largely based in science, documented trends, solid research and hard data, we still consider our job to be a creative, right-brain endeavor.

That's why we're grateful for the brilliant, left-brained technical partners that guide implementation of projects designed to benefit all members of a community (and ground our big visions in reality). They keep projects on budget, on schedule, cost-effective, safe, sustainable and often leverage the latest innovations to provide the best possible efficiency and value to stakeholders.

So, on this last day of Engineers Week 2021, we spoke to **Brandon Coleman**, one of our engineering partners and project manager at **HDR**. The expertise Brandon and his firm provide on large wastewater projects is invaluable—especially related to improving the environmental quality of communities and those who live there.

Here are some highlights from a Q+A discussion with Brandon earlier in the week:

**Q:** Why did you pursue a career in engineering?

**A:** I was always good at math as a kid but didn't know what opportunities were available to pursue this interest. My dad suggested I look into engineering and ended up studying civil engineering at the **University of Missouri** where I gravitated toward hydrology, hydraulics, and environmental science.

I guess choosing to focus on water is a result of me being a clean freak—I get to take something that's dirty and clean it, then get it ready to return into a stream. I also like to be on the front-end of technological advancements and want to contribute to the greater good of society.

**Q:** How do you believe engineers bring value to large, interdisciplinary projects?

**A:** We contribute an innate sense of project oversight, including the skills required to shape a project's scope into a process with clear deliverables. Engineers identify problems and weigh different solutions—especially in the planning and design stages.

**Q:** What is the most efficient/effective way to develop productive working relationships between engineers (usually left-brain personalities) and right brain people (those who tend to possess creative/visionary tendencies)?

**A:** It's critical to outline the path we'll take by building out a linear schedule and progression of activities that leads to successfully accomplishing our goals. During our journey together, it's also important to follow a defined sequence and regularly check in with all partners on the team.

**Q:** Ultimately, how do engineers bring value to communities and the people who live there?

**A:** When working on wastewater projects, we look at different ways that we can provide the greatest benefit to customers and the local environment. We determine the most cost-efficient ways to keep rates down and select the best technologies that not only meet regulations, but proactively look down the road 20 years to surpass requirements. There are many options and alternative solutions available to meet community needs; it's up to us to choose ways to provide the most additional value.

In the 21 years since Brandon entered the profession right out of college, he's enjoyed experiencing a range of projects and interesting challenges throughout his career, but emphasized that more engineers are needed to meet the future needs of communities.

"There's a real need for more people in this field," Brandon said. "Maintaining and creating new infrastructure in the future will require a greater number of engineers with a desire to solve complex problems in communities."

Happy Engineers Week to all the brilliant technical problem solvers out there!

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As we close out Engineers Week 2021, check out this Q+A conversation **Andrew Graham, Shockey Consulting Services, LLC**, had with **HDR Engineer Brandon Coleman** earlier this week.

Thank you to all the engineers out there for your innovative work and the contributions you make to help communities thrive—today and into the future!

#engineerweek  
#engineerlife