Collins Engineers, Inc.
Wendy Tabler, Civil & Environmental Engineering
2013 Summer Internship

COLLINS ENGINEERS, INC.

Collins is a multidisciplinary civil engineering firm, with focuses in:
- Construction Management
- Transportation
- Structural
- Underwater Engineering.
Collins is an ENR Top 500 Design Firm (ranked #280 in 2013).
Collins was founded in 1979 in Chicago, Illinois, and has expanded to 25 locations, including three international offices in the United Kingdom.
Collins’s Milwaukee office employs 30 of the 250 total Collins employees.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

GENERAL PURPOSE

As a summer intern, I helped with multiple projects at various stages. Because of the nature of construction and inspection, Collins does most of their work in the summer. I helped with projects in various stages, from proposal to final submission and review.

Construction Contract Writing:
I assisted in writing contracts for two major construction projects in the Milwaukee Area: the Zoo Interchange Project and the Hoan Bridge Rehabilitation Project. This process included calculating all labor, fixed, and direct costs; contacting subcontractors for required documentation; and compiling contracts between all subcontractors and the Department of Transportation. Final contracts were worth approximately $8 million and $12 million.

Independent Concession Stand Project:
I drafted a plan showing the existing and proposed structures for a local high school’s concession stand as they were looking to update the building and add bleacher space.

Other Contributions:
- General Mitchell Airport Runway Project
- Railroad Bridge Drafting
- I-43 Re-Decking Project
- Montana Bridge Climb Inspection Report Work
- NHI Bridge Inspection Course Material
- Interstate Highway Sign Repair and Replacement
- Nebraska Bridge Inspection Preparation

Collecting Data to Construct Channel Bottoms in Chicago:
In August, I was sent on a business trip to Chicago to collect water depth readings and respective coordinate locations in order to model the channel bottoms. This data was used to analyze scour patterns caused by bridges.

CONCLUSION

This was a beneficial experience, encouraging me in both my educational and professional pursuits. I saw the application of concepts that I was learning in classes at Calvin and learned practical skills unique to the industry. My work on a variety of projects fostered my interest in civil engineering applications I had not previously explored. The relationships I built with industry professionals guided and shaped my own decisions and educational track. My internship at Collins reignited my excitement for education and enhanced my potential as a professional.