



The Power Source

Igniting the Future of Florida



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AshleyAnn, congratulations on your recent promotion to regional marketing officer. Please describe your position for readers not familiar with Volkert or with your role.

Thank you so much! Volkert is a professional services firm offering a full range of planning, engineering, and construction services to both public and private clients across a broad spectrum of industries. The company is comprised of 7 geographic regions with approximately 1,400 employees operating in 25 states. In my new role, I am responsible for business development in our Gulf Region (AL, AR, MS, TN), shaping the strategy that drives growth and overseeing marketing efforts to strengthen our regional presence and support long-term objectives. I also help with select clients in GA and specific corporate marketing endeavors.

What inspired you to pursue your career with Volkert?

Nearing the end of college, I was not quite sure what I wanted to do with my international business degree, and I had casually been offered an internship by someone who works for Volkert. My father works in the engineering industry, but I wasn't quite sure what all that entailed. I decided why not? I liked the few people that I knew at Volkert at the time, so it could be fun, interesting, and new. What started out as just a summer internship, quickly changed into something more. I fell in love with what business development at Volkert had to offer: the ability to learn new things every single day, the opportunity to travel to places I had never been; even just the days on the road driving through small towns to meet clients and be out in God's creation; and that I get to meet new people from all walks of life every day. Which is what I love most about my job. I truly thank the Lord that I get to do a job that I love and have been able to build a career from that.

I think I would be remised if I didn't also say that something else that inspired me to pursue a career at Volkert is that we are completely employee owned. Many companies tout that, but if you have worked at Volkert for over a year, you are an employee owner. How cool is that? The work we do, and the decisions made every day require us to bear in mind that they could affect our coworkers positively or negatively. Having a mindset that you must show up and do your best at work for more than just yourself is a truly humbling work atmosphere that encourages us all to pull the boat in the same direction.



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To date, what has been then most rewarding part of your job?

I think sometimes the things that engineers design and build: transmission lines, gas lines, roads, bridges, etc., are under appreciated. We take them for granted or they are wrapped up in politics, but these types of things are what support our economy, give us comfort in our homes, and improve our quality of life. I think it is rewarding in and of itself to play a small part in such an important process, but it is also rewarding to get to tell the engineers that I work with that they did a great job. That the client and the public are happy. Getting to see something go from conception to final construction is an incredibly gratifying process to be part of. Those of us who work in this industry may occasionally take that for granted, but it truly is an awesome industry that we are blessed to work in.

Florida's Women in Energy Leadership Forum is a strong supporter of industry internship programs and you started as an intern. What advice would you give students in researching and pursuing these opportunities?

The biggest piece of advice that I feel that I can give is not to be closed-minded. Often times we allow our college major to pigeonhole us into a specific job, company, or industry. Various types of jobs overlap all sorts of industries. Find what makes you want to get out of bed in the morning and what you can't stop thinking about at night. It sounds cliché, but it is so true. We spend so much time in life at work; love what you do. Do not be afraid to take a risk or ask for more responsibility. In today's world, those that take initiative and put themselves out there will be the ones who have the greatest success. I was an international business major with a minor in marketing, and before my internship, I never imagined the engineering world was where I belonged. But once I opened myself up to the possibilities and opportunities within this industry, I discovered that I could truly love what I do and found clarity as I stepped into my career.