



The Power Source

Igniting the Future of Florida



May 2026

Eva Ulibarri, PE

Project Manager

Burns & McDonnell

Eva, describe your position as Project Manager.

As a project manager at Burns & McDonnell, I am responsible for the overall and successful execution of projects. In my day-to-day, I develop detailed project plans, manage costs, and oversee engineering, procurement, and construction activities. At Burns & McDonnell, we pride ourselves on repeat business and making our clients successful, so a significant part of my role involves building and maintaining strong client relationships. I serve as the primary point of contact to ensure client satisfaction, including managing all aspects of project communication, addressing client needs, and negotiating contracts and change orders.

What inspired you to pursue your engineering degree?

Spending my childhood weekends as my handyman dad's 'helper' sparked a lifelong fascination with fixing things and understanding how they work. That hands-on curiosity, paired with my love for math, naturally led me to pursue an engineering degree. I tackled the program with a can-do attitude — just chugging along and treating every class as a new challenge to overcome. Ultimately, that journey instilled the core philosophy I rely on today: if someone trusts you with a task, believe you are capable, and you will always figure it out.

To date, what has been your most rewarding project?

For me, the most rewarding project hasn't been one specific physical build, but rather an experience we had partnering with a small, local utility client. They were facing significant challenges and simply lacked the internal resources to execute the work they needed to complete. What made this so fulfilling was our ability to step in as a true extension of their team. We were able to tap into our nationwide network of expertise at Burns & McDonnell and bring those resources directly to their doorstep, providing them with comprehensive, full-service support. It wasn't just about the technical execution; it was about the human element—seeing the relief and success of a client who genuinely needed a partner and knowing we were able to figure it out and deliver exactly what their community needed.



The Power Source

Igniting the Future of Florida

How can we all participate in encouraging more women to pursue STEM-related careers?

To truly encourage more women and youth to pursue STEM, I feel we must shift our focus from potentially intimidating technical topics to general curiosity and human impact. It's too often I hear of unnecessarily complicated technical challenges scaring students off before they reach the starting line. I feel that by leading with compassion and the 'why' behind solving real-world problems, we make the field accessible to those who want to help their communities. Through mentorship, we must actively celebrate the 'I'll figure it out' mentality, alleviating the pressure to be perfect that often scares people away. Ultimately, we need to redefine what makes a great engineer: it is not always the person who is best on paper, but the one who combines resilience, empathy, and a deep understanding of the problem with a will to find the right solution.

Does Burns & McDonnell have an internship program?

Yes! Burns & McDonnell views its internship program as a critical investment in future talent, serving as one of the company's preferred methods for identifying and hiring new full-time employee-owners. Interns gain hands-on experience on projects across various engineering and corporate fields while receiving direct mentorship to build their professional networks. This program integrates students into the firm's unique culture through leadership access and site visits, specifically designed to prepare them for a seamless transition into a permanent career.