



The City of Los Angeles HBCU Integrated and Interdisciplinary Virtual Internship Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The City of Los Angeles has established the Los Angeles Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Engineering Recruitment Committee in response to the underrepresentation of African American Engineers in various Departments within the City of Los Angeles. A review of the colleges and universities within Los Angeles County reveals that there is also an underrepresentation of African American engineering students matriculating to the engineering programs in the region. Many of the African American students in Los Angeles area high schools matriculate to universities outside of the county in general, and some specifically to HBCUs. An effort to recruit at HBCUs can not only include qualified engineering African American candidates, but often include California students who have studied at various colleges and universities throughout the country.

The HBCU Committee is using five distinct programs to increase the number of African-American Engineers employed in the City of Los Angeles and create a “pipeline” for future engineering talent to reach a parity against the percent of employed African-American Engineers and percent of African-American population at-large in the City of Los Angeles.

The five programs are:

- 1.Black Engineering of the Year Awards (BEYA) Recruitment and Workshops
- 2.Integrated and Interdisciplinary Virtual Internship Program
- 3.City of Los Angeles’ Engineering Day with HBCU
- 4.Engineering Informational Exchange (TED Talks)
- 5.HBCU Research and Engineering Innovation Program





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Commissioner Mike Davis
Board of Public Works

WORDS FROM COMMISSIONER DAVIS

The City of Los Angeles Historical Black College and University's Committee has been successful in helping to achieve diversity within the City by reaching out to African American engineers. Our committee and Bureau leadership and labor partners realize our potential as a City to include more African American engineers in critical positions where their expertise can be applied throughout the City of Los Angeles.

We recognize the challenge we have in the Southern California area to achieve equitable representation of African American engineers when recruiting from local colleges and universities. In order to magnify our reach, we must engage African American student professionals from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in order to better exemplify diversity and inclusion within the City of Los Angeles.

Historically, HBCUs have talented engineering students who graduate and go on to work for some of the top engineering companies in the country. From our recruitment experience we have discovered that many engineering students at HBCUs are students from California who chose to pursue their education outside of state, but have a desire to return home to better their home communities. This fact has led to many of the engineering leaderships in the City to capitalize on the opportunity to demonstrate that we can seize the moment by increasing the number of African American student engineers applying for engineering jobs in the City of Los Angeles. HBCU Engineering Recruitment Committee efforts have established an increase of 36 students who have applied for engineering jobs during the tenure of this program.

I am thrilled to see the launching and completion of the City of Los Angeles HBCU program from the diligent staff of Bureau and Departments that serve on the committee.

We have hired and engaged 12 interns from HBCU schools this summer and used an integrated, interdisciplinary, and rotational work exposure approach providing experiences in many facets of civil and environmental engineering. We have also had the American Public Works Associations, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Association of Climate Change Officials provide meaningful webinar, self-paced core courses, mentorships, and co-learning experiences. We hope to continue this internship program. Please check the LA Sanitation & Environment website for updates on the program status.



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Internship Program Overview

Participating Universities	Participating City of Los Angeles Departments	
Hampton University	Bureau of Engineering	LA Sanitation & Environment
Jackson State University	Department of Building & Safety	Personnel Department
Morgan State University	Department of Public Works	Port of Los Angeles
North Carolina A&T University	Department of Transportation	Streets LA
Tennessee State University	Department of Water & Power	Los Angeles World Airports
Texas Southern University	LA Lights	
Tuskegee University		
Xavier University of Louisiana		

Feedback from the City Program Participants

“The City of Los Angeles HBCU Internship Program is truly “Teamwork makes Dream-Work” happen... This internship program will help the Interns’ career develop and fulfil their dreams and aspirations. The Interns all have great attitude and were very engaged to learn and performed well in assigned tasks. This program profoundly highlights that the City of Los Angeles is a great place to work and has road maps to recruit great future engineering students. It was an honor to be part of this historic program.”

“Through this program, LADWP and other City Departments were able to connect with qualified, high potential student engineers from HBCUs. We are all united and committed to ensuring that our future City workforce is as diverse as the communities we serve.”

“I have been honored to have the privilege to provide guidance and mentorship to a rising new engineer. In this relatively short period, we have worked on several aspects of professional development such as technical tasks, soft skills, networking, and real world challenges faced by engineers in our field. My hope is that all of our interns take the skills they developed in this program and apply them to become the finest engineers they can be.”

“Los Angeles World Airports was very impressed with the students participating in the HBCU Virtual Internship Program. They were intelligent, energetic, inquisitive and actually provided valuable insight and suggestions for our some of our upcoming projects which demonstrates that they would be well suited for employment with the City of Los Angeles.”



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6-Week Internship Program Schedule

Week 1	<p>Introduction to City Departments and Mentors</p> <p>Sustainability, Life Cycle Assessment, System Engineering, Material Recovery, and Circular Economy</p> <p>Presentations from LADWP: Overview of Power System and Discussion of LA100 Equity System and EV, Future of Water Planning, Fundamentals of Engineering, Water Engineering Presentation and Tours of Sites, and Human Resources Overview, Tools and Tech used by Water and Power, LADWP Panelist Discussion, Environmental Regulations Discussion, and Headworks Walk-Through</p>
Week 2	<p>Check-in with Mentors for Division Assignments, Capstone Project—Sustainability in Future Roadways, Material Recovery Project—Shoe Waste Challenge</p> <p>Presentations from BOE: Meet the Executive Team, Construction Management, Design Management, Project Management, and Permit Case Management, Case Study Assignment and Presentation, Breakout Sessions, and Investigative Interviews, Breakout Sessions, Presentations on Findings, Discussion of “What Happened”, and Closing Activities</p>
Week 3	<p>Check-in with Mentors for Division Assignments, Capstone Project—Sustainability in Future Roadways, Material Recovery Project—Shoe Waste Challenge, APWA Webinars, ACCO Climate Change</p> <p>LASAN: Biomimicry, Textile Hub, Reusable Foodware Program, Water Recycling Implementation</p> <p>Division Overview, Virtual Tour of Hyperion and Terminal Island</p> <p>LADOT: Traffic Ops, ATSAC Tours, Geometric Design Lesson and Workshop, Presentations on Transit, Metro Program, Construction, Transportation, and Parking Management, Panel Discussion</p>
Week 4	<p>Check-in with Mentors for Division Assignments, Capstone Project—Sustainability in Future Roadways, Material Recovery Project—Shoe Waste Challenge, APWA Webinars</p> <p>Port of LA: History, Land & Water, Facilities, Agencies, Major Projects, Team Introduction, and All About Engineering Presentations, All About Construction Presentations, Sample Projects, Feedback and Q&A</p>
Week 5	<p>Check-in with Mentors for Division Assignments, Capstone Project—Sustainability in Future Roadways, Material Recovery Project—Shoe Waste Challenge, APWA Webinars, ACCO Climate Change</p> <p>LASAN: Pollution Prevention, RAD, WPD, SCWID, CWNCD, DCT, LAG, and Metal Finishing Tour</p> <p>LADBS: Introduction, Disciplines, Plan Check & Permit Issuance, Structural Plan Check, and Eplan Check</p> <p>BSS: StreetsLA Presentation, Navigate LA Demo, and Complete Investigative Report Group Assignment</p> <p>BSL: Intro Presentation, Presentation on Technologies, and Virtual Tour of Office & Field Operations</p>
Week 6	<p>Check-in with Mentors for Division Assignments, Final Report and Presentation on Capstone Project—Sustainability in Future Roadways, Material Recovery Project—Shoe Waste Challenge, APWA Webinars</p> <p>Special Recognition from Board of Public Works, ASCE Presentations and Interview with Channel 35</p> <p>LAWA: Hierarchy and Organizational Structure, Airports 101, Major Projects and Programs, Work-Life Balance & Telework, Virtual Airfield Tour, and Personal Experiences Discussion</p> <p>LASAN: FMD, ICSD, WESD, Meeting with the Chief Sustainability Officer, Resume Writing & Interview Skills, Civil Hiring Process, and Panel Discussion with LASAN</p>



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About the Interns



Olajide Ipindola
Civil Engineering PhD
Morgan State

1. Why I wanted to participate in the internship program.

The main reason I wanted to participate in the LA City HBCU Internship was because it resonates with my dream of working in the public service. I wanted to understand how public service works by learning under the guidance of experienced LACITY mentors. More so, I wanted a platform for interaction and cross-fertilization of ideas with people from diverse background in order to position my career at a global competitiveness. Finally, I wanted to have a deep understanding of concepts such as: circular economy, sustainability, social justice and equity as it relates to civil service and community engagements.

2. Background on college career. Why I chose engineering.

I chose to pursue a career in engineering because it aligns with my element. I am a problem solver and quite proficient with handling numbers. More so, I love precision, empiricism and being able to quantify or measure attributes. Growing up, I was very comfortable with mathematics and physics, I built a couple baby houses with sand, made toy cars from bamboo and waste slippers, spined waste tires for errands and athletics and fabricated set of drums from waste polyethylene and cans. My childhood experiences back in Nigeria reinforced my interest in sustainable waste management. Hence, my reason for majoring in Civil Engineering up to doctoral level.

3. Biggest takeaways from the internship program.

The City of LA HBCU internship has tremendously broadened my horizon as touching civil service and its rudiments. My exposure to concepts such as circular economy, system thinking, social justice, equity, sustainability and resilience has changed my paradigm on problem solving and opened up new possibilities for growth and fulfillment of my innate potentials. Finally, the strive for inclusion at LACITY is a source of encouragement and hope for the black community and this good news shall be amplified among HBCUs going forward.



Rachel Wallace
Chemistry & Chemical
Engineering
Xavier University of
Louisiana

1. Why I wanted to participate in the internship program.

A friend of mine told me about this internship late on a Friday night, the day before the applications were due. The reason why I stayed up to update my resume and turn in my transcripts, instead of going to bed when I was exhausted from a full week of classes, was because I spent all these hours studying for a career in which I had not yet had any real experience. Besides the fundamental skills involving math and physics, experience is what makes an engineer. In this program, I saw the opportunity to gain knowledge from those who are in the field performing their responsibilities as engineers

2. Background on college career. Why I chose engineering.

As a child, I grew up naturally concerned about keeping the environment clean. I always put my trash in the garbage can and made sure not to litter. However, once I learned about global warming and its world altering effects, I became anxious. Mostly, this was because this problem could not simply be solved by recycling. My worry only increased as I got older until a point when I decided I wanted to be part of the solution and not just the problem. Therefore, I would say engineering chose me rather than the other way around. I had skills in math and science; engineering was the pathway for me to use both to pave the way toward the future I wished to see.

3. Biggest takeaways from the internship program.

Participating in this program has given me the opportunity to talk to a vast network of practicing engineers and visualize myself one being in their shoes. There are other things I have gained, such as expanding my communication skills, networking, and professional development. However, the most important takeaway I gained is the confidence to grow as an engineer, along with an awareness of my current capabilities. I was uncertain of my ability to do the job prior to becoming part of this program. Thankfully, meeting engineers who were recently students such as myself in addition to like-minded peers has enhanced my conviction to steadily improve and get to where I want to be.



Dumo Jacktony
Civil Engineering
Texas Southern

1. Why I wanted to participate in the internship program.

Walking down the hallways of the COSET building of the prestigious Texas Southern University and seeing this internship's flyer and what it entailed was enough of an incentive for me to be honest. Being a college student for a good while and almost finishing with no internship experience in any department in the Engineering work field, this was just too much to pass up on. It offered to educate and integrate all departments of Engineering in just six weeks right when I am about to finish college and that was the best opportunity I could hope for at this time of my college career. Currently four weeks in and I already feel more proud than I have ever felt for pursuing the path of an engineer and to be able to learn a plethora of information about our world and how to sustain it in a small but valuable period of time.

2. Background on college career. Why I chose engineering.

Growing up, I always pondered on solving problems about anything rather than letting them be. But I didn't want to become a lawyer or judge or something of the humanities leadership sort. In academics, I found out I was more scientifically inclined and often used the 'putting two and two together' approach to life. Even before I could think for myself I was told I would be joyful when new toys are gifted to me only for me to immediately break them so I can fix them. Since the difference between what a problem was and was not at that age was not clear, subconsciously creating the problems was the only choice of a toddler. Being that type of person with advice from parents, guardians, and by decision, it's no surprise that I chose the path of an engineer, that will help build up society and civilization; A civil engineer.

3. Biggest takeaways from the internship program.

There are a lot of takeaways from this internship program but the most significant ones for me I would say are the amount of info I got to learn about electric vehicles (EVs), the exposure I have had to real life work environments of Engineers, building teamwork with people I barely knew, learning the severity of climate change and awareness and lastly and most importantly, the life lessons I learnt from every single speaker we ever listened to. It's amazing how I can just start talking about Engineering and not run out of what to say when explaining it to a foreign ear especially after the time we spent with the BOE (Bureau Of Engineering). I was not like that before. Same thing goes for EVs which I got from our time spent with LADWP (LA Department of Water Power). And also the teamwork which I even got better at and learned more about while working with the other amazing interns who I learn from every day. It is always a good time with them. Speaking of EVs in our capstone project we are currently incorporating EV research into our sustainable roadway design report. Running students through various departments of the field is definitely an excellent idea and will aid us in making significant career choices.



Morgan Quates
Mechanical
Engineering
Tennessee State

1. Why I wanted to participate in the internship program.

The reason why I wanted to take this internship is because this is an experience like no other. I get the opportunity to network with other engineering students from all over the country from various historical black institutions. I get to explore different departments throughout the city of Los Angeles. The city of Los Angeles departments are actively working to improve the environment and I wanted to be part of the change. I wanted to come into this internship and be a sponge. I wanted to learn the environmental practices that they are using to help improve their city and take it back home and to my universities to better my community. This internship gives you a wide range of different career opportunities for all disciplines.

2. Background on college career. Why I chose engineering.

There are so many reasons I choose Engineering. I have been exposed to engineering basically my entire life. My mom is a material engineer. She has shown me that being a black woman in STEM is not a dream, but a lifestyle. I became passionate about engineering when I started to fall in love with my science classes in high school. I had always excelled in math classes. I have always wanted to make the world a better place and I knew a medical degree was not the way for me. An engineering degree can help me solve so many issues environmental, societal, and medical. Engineering gives me the flexibility to explore so many disciplines and help improve the world.

3. Biggest takeaways from the internship program.

One of the biggest takeaways from this internship would be that people need to do their part to make the world a better place. A lot of the issues we face in the world come from people taking short cuts and being cheap. There are a lot of systems that all cities can put in place that will help stop a lot of pollution we see. Major corporations will not stop mass producing plastic because it doesn't make them the most money. Corporations are too selfish and greedy to make a difference and will cut corners to make a buck. Another huge takeaway is that we are the engineers of the future. A lot of engineers in the past were putting a bandaid on a bullet hole. They kept pushing issues off and passing them down to the next generation. It is on us to solve the problems so that the next generation gets to enjoy the earth.



Gerron Griffin
Civil Engineering
Morgan State

1. Why I wanted to participate in the internship program.

I wanted to participate in the internship program to develop skills in unfamiliar topics and learn from people that have experience in the field I plan on joining. I also wanted to learn more about the different concentrations in Civil Engineering and The City of LA has done an amazing job of doing just that; they provide powerpoints, videos and the presenters give their honest opinion and experience. Another reason that I wanted to partake in this program is because in my senior year I have to do a senior project and I knew this internship would give me some great ideas and there are some amazing engineers that have been willing to give some great advice.

2. Background on college career. Why I chose engineering.

I am currently a senior civil engineering major at the illustrious Morgan State University. The reason I chose engineering is because I have been in the STEM program since I was a freshman in highschool. In the STEM program our junior year we had to pick a track in which we had to study. The options were biology, engineering and computer science. I chose engineering which consisted of robotics competitions, building of bridges, and conceptual research projects. I also got accepted into a program at Morgan called PACE which is designed for high school students to come to the school for six weeks to live, develop their math skills and make friends. After everything I had done I felt it was only right for me to go to college to pursue a bachelors in engineering.

3. Biggest takeaways from the internship program.

The biggest takeaway from the internship program is that with all the positive and informative information from all the departments allows students to know that they are capable and can become an engineer. In college the classes tend to be very challenging and at times it isn't easy to understand all the material. Also the math is a lot harder to understand and remember. The bright side of things is that the City of Los Angeles has many different departments and all the engineers tell you it is okay if you don't know everything because a lot of the information you need to know you will learn on the job what's important is that you are willing to learn and that you have a good work ethic. This helps to ease the stress and put a more positive outlook on becoming an engineer and working for The City of Los Angeles.



Jevon Weems
Mechanical
Engineering
Tuskegee University

1. Why I wanted to participate in the internship program.

I wanted to participate in this program because I am a Southern California native, and I was interested in knowing how the city of LA works from the inside out. I was also interested in how the city was getting ready for the future and if other cities would follow suit. I also saw this a good opportunity to see if I would enjoy working for a city especially since it is so close to home.

2. Background on college career. Why I chose engineering.

I attend Tuskegee University in Tuskegee Alabama and I am a Junior Mechanical Engineer. I chose engineering because as a kid I was always interested in how things work. I played with Legos and built things and reversed engineered toys to figure out how they worked. I love seeing a vision come to life and become a reality. I like to draw, and I see an engineering project as a work of art.

3. Biggest takeaways from the internship program.

Some of the biggest takeaways for me are on the power side of things. I find it interesting how the city is getting ready for the influx of electric cars by 2025 and how they are trying to encourage people to purchase electric cars to preserve the environment. I also enjoy seeing the designs of the new projects they are creating like the Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Center and the 6th Street Viaduct. Seeing those projects from a design to what they look like now is astonishing they look like works of art. I also enjoy having the opportunity to explore the different departments and being able to pick their brain. There is so much that goes into improving and maintaining a city. I am also proud of all the work that is being done to make the city environment friendly!



Bria Terrell
Chemical Engineering
Hampton University

1. Why I wanted to participate in the internship program.

I wanted to participate in this internship program to diversify my experience by working with different city departments and learning from experienced engineers. I also wanted to network with other HBCU engineering students and mentors. This internship provided me with experience different from what is offered in the classroom. You can not teach experience from a book; this is only something a mentor can teach you.

2. Background on college career. Why I chose engineering.

I decided to major in engineering in the 5th grade. I always enjoyed science and I worked hard in math. At a young age I had a lot of women mentors in engineering and I enjoyed working with them. The hands-on experience and being able to make a difference in the world helped me choose my college major

3. Biggest takeaways from the internship program.

My biggest takeaways are to always be prepared, network with the presenters, to ask for help when you don't know what something is, and form bonds virtually. Although we are online we did get to get to know each other, to network, and help each other if someone doesn't understand something. I will never forget my time with the City of LA Engineering department. This is an opportunity of a lifetime and I am extremely grateful for it.



Marcus Parker
Civil Engineering
Morgan State

1. Why I wanted to participate in the internship program.

The reason why I wanted to participate in this internship program was because I wanted to work with like minded people who came from the same background as me. Having worked at other internships in a predominantly white field, I thought it would be refreshing to not only work with people who looked like me but had also went to an HBCU and couldn't relate more to my overall life experience

2. Background on college career. Why I chose engineering.

Growing up I was always interested in computers and engineering. I often spent many summers going to summer camps to learn how to program and design robots to compete in different tasks. In middle school I continued this trend as I had an engineering/computer science teacher who pushed me to not only think critically but also see things in different aspects. It wasn't until high school that I chose to pursue engineering, even though I still took computer science classes. It just seemed as if engineering interested me more and this is why today I am pursuing a civil engineering degree at Morgan State University .

3. Biggest takeaways from the internship program.

During this internship program some of my biggest take aways are project management, time management, and cooperation. From this internship I have noticed that project management and time management work hand in hand. After being assigned different task my group and I had to come together and cooperate productively to figure out different times we can come together and work on the various challenges and projects we were given. We needed to essentially become a team and work together on assigning roles to one another that best fit are strengths and weaknesses all while maintaining a tight schedule so we could complete our task before the deadline.



Nya Harmon
Chemical Engineering
Hampton University

1. Why I wanted to participate in the internship program.

I participated in this program to find my place as a chemical engineer and to be challenged as an individual. In my previous work experiences, I have researched at an institution and taught children the wonders of chemistry. I find myself doing multiple things as an engineer, so in this internship, I hope to pinpoint what road to choose as a chemical engineer and become well-rounded in my major as an undergraduate.

2. Background on college career. Why I chose engineering.

When I was young, I aspired to be a doctor until I discovered that I was scared of blood and needles. Even then, I still wanted to help people with my love of chemistry and be able to work with my hands. Chemical engineering was introduced to me, and immensely I was hooked. It taught me resilience, teamwork, and confidence as I went through challenging classes and projects. For the last couple of years as an undergraduate, I never regretted or thought of changing my major once.

3. Biggest takeaways from the internship program.

I was ecstatic to be exposed to each department of The City of LA and get behind the scenes of the various projects to make Los Angeles more innovative, efficient, eco-friendly, and safer. I admire that every engineer at The City of LA has different backgrounds, producing different creative ideas to achieve these goals for the city. It is also amazing to experience that each department connects with one another, producing the same purposes. It inspires future engineers like me to be a part of that community.



**Shunterrance "Shaun"
Walton**
Civil Engineering
Jackson State

1. Why I wanted to participate in the internship program.

One reason for me wanting to participate in this internship is the information about this internship that I read. It really stood out to me due to the fact that it was letting us explore and get a little personal experience towards nine different departments. Another reason was that there were not a lot of companies coming to Jackson State for interns, but for hiring right now due to covid. Another plus was that this internship was remote but was still in Los Angeles and I have never been there or California in general. With that being said, having an internship there would be amazing rather it be in person or not. The biggest reason was that I had talked to many companies about internships and was awaiting email or call backs and this one came back first with exactly what I was looking for.

2. Background on college career. Why I chose engineering.

I got into engineering from growing up playing with toys that challenged me like transformers or Lego blocks and through watching my uncle, who is a chemical engineer. I saw the trips and type of work or meetings he was doing and was involved in and that caught my attention. It wasn't just my uncle either but my creative side and fascination with high-scale projects, mechanics, machinery, and a couple engineering classes from high school. I really like to think and brainstorm ideas to come up with solutions as well as adding in my own creativity towards a project. Also, I like the process of projects leading to being established and functioning well. The phases and steps to get to the bigger goal and finished product really shows that the efforts and time spent was not for nothing. All of the aspects about me are the same to describe engineering.

3. Biggest takeaways from the internship program.

The biggest takeaways are that we are actually learning about a city and its engineers and engineering departments from our computers at home. This most definitely would've been way better to actually be in person, but this internship is amazing the way we have little small assignments, trivia games, or brainstorming challenges. I actually like how we still have a couple hands on projects and tasks. Each of the departments so far has been very informative, clear, and just helpful with everything. Seems they really want us to join them with our engineering journey. This experience is incredible to do this internship in Los Angeles, California from home and be getting paid to do so. I don't think it can get any better than this.



Fatou Mbaye
Biological Engineering
North Carolina A&T

1. Why I wanted to participate in the internship program.

I wanted to participate in the LA City HBCU internship program because I aimed to achieve a greater understanding on how communities and the environment are impacted by an engineer's job. This was greatly important to me because combating climate change and pollution is just as critical as ensuring communities are supported with actions of equity and diverse consideration. Additionally, I saw this program as a way to learn more about the numerous opportunities of my field and zero in on a path that will leave me satisfied with the local impact and engaged in everyday work.

2. Background on college career. Why I chose engineering.

I grew up with STEM influences due to my father specializing in information technology. He often spoke about the advancements and challenges of his childhood home, Dakar Senegal. One of which would be the water quality and energy. I could not help but notice that there was a general problem in regards to our natural resources. This sparked a passion for helping communities whilst mitigating negative environmental impact. At North Carolina A&T, Biological Engineering has allowed me to get a first hand look at how I can aid in incorporating sustainability with technology and innovation.

3. Biggest takeaways from the internship program.

One of the biggest takeaways from the internship program would be the advice on workplace confidence. As a woman of color, I have found that my gender and race makes me more timid in approaching different opportunities, and impacted my belief in success. This program has introduced me to different women of color and different personal workplace experiences. They have served as role models that have motivated me to believe in myself. Seeing that they have conquered instilled a belief in myself that I can conquer as well. The importance of representation was amplified for me.

Another impactful take away would be the critical thinking skills that I obtained. It was exciting to go through different exercises such as permit analysis, project plans, and many more! It was a change in thought process unlike one that we learned in school. We were able to experience hands-on enrichment. I am grateful to say that I have experienced what it was like to think like a true engineer!



Lamar Henderson
Civil Engineering
Morgan State

1. Why I wanted to participate in the internship program.

I wanted to participate in the City of Los Angeles HBCU Internship Program to gain invaluable exposure to the Civil Engineering Departments of Los Angeles. There is a myriad of areas in Civil Engineering and the Internship informs us, through presentations and Q &A, on what the various departments have to offer if we continue in the field after graduation.

2. Background on college career. Why I chose engineering.

I wanted to pursue Mechanical Engineering while I was in High School because I worked well with my hands, and I always approached situations logically. I started college later in life because I reached the plateau in the work force, and I never was able to receive fulfillment. My wife noticed my passion for traffic patterns and suggested pursuing Civil Engineering, and I stumbled into a world I that I love. The more exposure I gain, the closer I feel to my purpose in life.

3. Biggest takeaways from the internship program.

The City of Los Angeles HBCU Internship has shown me the importance of receiving information directly from the source fuels determination. We can vet the presenters to build our knowledge of Civil Engineering and apply it to future situations. I also appreciate the capstone project attached to the program allowing us to work as a team to build camaraderie with our fellow HBCU cohorts.



Blanca Calderon
Civil Engineering Associate
LASAN



Emilio Lopez
Acting Environmental
Engineer
LASAN



Christina Jones
Environmental Engineer
LASAN

**Thank you to the Mentors who
provided guidance during this
internship!**



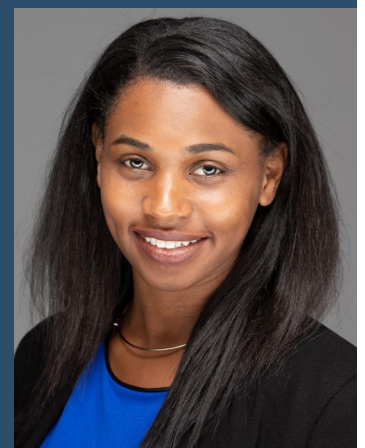
Alfredo Zaldivar
Environmental
Engineering Associate
LASAN



Hamed Haddad-Zadegan
PhD, Environmental
Engineering Associate
LASAN



James Roska
Environmental
Engineering Associate
LASAN



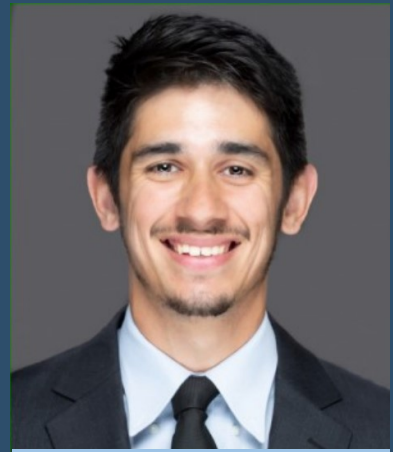
Karina Simpson
Environmental
Engineering Associate
LASAN



Richard Tavolucci
Environmental
Engineering Associate
LASAN



Trina Lai
Environmental Engineering
Associate
LASAN



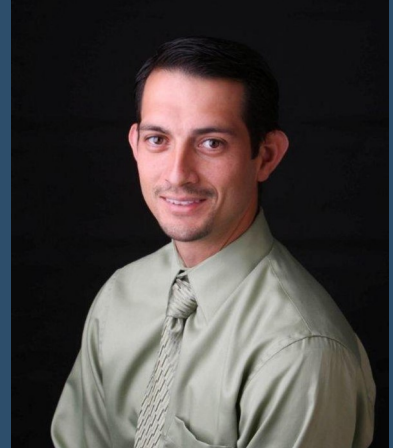
Pablo Hernandez
Environmental Engineering
Associate
LASAN



Brian Correa
Sr. Civil Engineer
Port of LA



Erick Leon
Civil Engineering Associate
Port of LA



Marco Sanchez
Civil Engineer
Port of LA



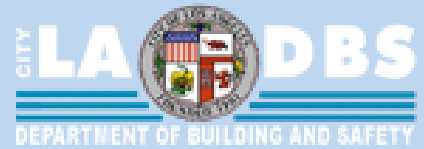
Michelle Tovar-Mora
Mechanical Engineering
Associate
LADWP



Chris Munis
Mechanical Engineering
Associate
LADWP



Robel Afewerki
Harbor Engineer
Port of LA



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