

Name: Paula West



Education, Experience & Achievements

Graduated in 2003 with BA Mechatronic Eng @ Curtin University of Technology in WA

2004: Graduate Engineer at Sherwood Utilities Pty Ltd for 3 months before being seconded to Hlsmelt Kwinana as a Graduate Engineer for 3 months

Second half of 2004: Took time off and Travelled around Australia

2005: Port Engineer at the Dampier Port Authority

2006- Present: Mechanical Engineer at Alcoa Kwinana Refinery

What led you to choose Engineering as a career?

I had always had an interest in Maths and Science at school and engineering seemed the perfect choice to continue that interest.

What is it about Engineering that inspires you?

Engineering is a profession where, for me, no two days are the same.

What has been the high point in your career to date?

What has been your biggest challenge so far and how have you solved it?

My biggest challenge in my career to date was relocating to the Pilbara region for work. Challenges such as living away from home and from my partner and family were tough. Although I only spent a year in the Pilbara I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the region through getting involved in the community with sporting teams and local activities.

How have you managed your work and family commitments?

Do you have any advice for women who are considering engineering as a career, or for those who are already Engineers?

If you are thinking about engineering as a career I would recommend talking to people in the industry to learn about what engineering is. Many people have no real idea on what engineers actually do, or how many types there are and it can affect their decision on whether or not to pursue a career in engineering.

