

Great Basin College Land Surveying/Geomatics Program Graduates



Jolene Hoffman

Jolene Hoffman (Fall 2012) had earned a BS in Business Administration and chose a career change due to the lack of opportunities provided in the 2008 recession. She has set an excellent example for all those individuals exercising a career change. She regularly attended our NALS Great Basin Chapter monthly meetings as a student, and now as a graduate of the Great Basin College Land Surveying Program. She is our 2013 Chapter Secretary. Her choice to meet and build relationships with practicing land surveyors is the very best way for a student to gain employment and enter the profession. I previously served in the US Air Force as an Instrumentation and Telemetry Technician, and then worked as a Financial Planner and Loan Officer after finishing a BS in Business. The real estate market dropped and awarded me the opportunity to look at a new career. Landing in Elko, NV I reviewed the programs at Great Basin College to add more specific, technical and updated skills to my resume to get me out from behind a computer every day. Land Surveying fit the bill. The reason I followed through with this choice is largely because of the people I met and aligned with through the GBC program, NALS Great Basin Chapter, technical users groups and annual land surveying conventions. Although not largely populated with women, surveyors in general fit my personality and work ethic much better than stuffy bankers. While attending Great Basin College I accumulated cadastral surveying experience as a seasonal intern for the Forest Service and later mine surveying experience with a local gold mine. Upon completion of the Land Surveying/Geomatics degree, I took a Survey Analyst position with Wallace Morris Surveying which is a technical savvy company who has managed to grow its business in this economy and recently opened a new office in Elko, NV. Here I have had the chance to get my feet in the dirt on some construction surveying and be intimately involved in positioning to take on pipeline projects. Down the road I see my business and technology background complimenting the evolution of Land Surveying to date and incorporating future developments of the industry. Every day I learn something new from a surveying, technical and/or business perspective; I don't expect that will ever change. The endless options are exactly what I was looking for.