

**My name is Carla Bartholomew. I practice as a mechanical design engineer and have been working in the building services industry for just over 6 years. I am currently employed by a global engineering consultancy, AECOM, and have been working their Bristol office since October 2012. I previously worked at a smaller M&E consultancy, also in Bristol.**



Alongside my industry experience, I have achieved a HNC in building services engineering, which I studied part-time, and in August 2012 I graduated from a part-time BSc (hons) degree in Building Services Engineering at the University of the West of England.

I am currently an Affiliate member of CIBSE having recently submitted my application for Associate of CIBSE (IEng) and have an ambition to one day become a Chartered Engineer. I am also Chair of CIBSE South West Young Engineers Network (YEN) and sit on the CIBSE South West Regional Committee.

Whilst studying I was a Student Member of CIBSE and upgrading to Affiliate seemed to be the best route as I wanted to develop my membership to ACIBSE within that following year.

I think two of CIBSE's best assets are the CIBSE Journal and Knowledge Portal. These resources are invaluable to discovering more about the industry, what developments are being made, what are "hot topics" of discussion, and to enable me to keep up to date with current thinking and design practices. On top of this, CIBSE are doing a lot to try and reach out to their members by providing opportunities for engineers to develop themselves professionally,

through courses, CPD events and support through mentorship.

## APPLYING FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

My long term aspiration is to become a Chartered Engineer, however as my part-time degree at the University of the West of England is not accredited for the Chartered Engineer (CEng) status\*, I shall need to partake on the Technical Route to Chartership, which involves writing a detailed technical report and competency review. My course was however accredited for Incorporated Engineer (IEng), and I needed to write a 4000 word competency report for the application. If that is accepted I will attend an interview to complete the registration for Associate of CIBSE.

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For me, it was important to apply for IEng in the interim to the process for gaining chartership, because during the time it will take to complete (approximately 2-3 years) I would like to show a level of competency to my colleagues. This will hopefully provide me with more opportunities within my company and validate a competency level that that I have achieved through my education and work experiences.

\*The academic requirement for CEEng post 1999 is an accredited BEng Hons + MSc or an MEng.

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#### **GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT**

I believe that my greatest professional accomplishment is becoming chair of CIBSE Young Engineers Network in the South West. It is a great honour and I get to meet and work with a wide circle of professionals; and represent CIBSE at a number of functions and events to promote the industry.

#### **FUTURE CAREER**

In the future I hope to become more involved in mentorship and to develop a scheme that benefits both young engineers and those with a great deal of industry experience and will be able to pass on invaluable knowledge and expertise. Young people who see themselves being invested in will

make effort to push themselves and generate a positive culture towards the industry.

#### **GETTING INVOLVED WITH CIBSE**

I am currently involved in CIBSE activities as I am Chair of the CIBSE South West Young Engineers Network, and sit on the CIBSE South West Regional Committee.

I passionately believe that YEN is invaluable to encouraging others to progress a career in building services. The enthusiasm and inspiration that young people bring to the industry makes it a much more appealing place for those looking for a long term career. I have encouraged YEN members to join STEMNET, which is supported by CIBSE, as it enables engineers to meet with the next generation of potential engineers and help give a context to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects they learn throughout their school lives. It is inherent that often young people cannot comprehend the doors that are opened by STEM subjects, but by showing them how interesting, and influential engineering can be on things like new technology, the environment, buildings and even economic issues, they can see how they can help change the future. I think this is quite an appealing concept.

Professionally it's of great benefit being involved in YEN, as it generally enables young engineers within the area to meet in a social environment where they can discuss and debate current issues, maybe talk about their applications for IEng or CEng, exchange knowledge about industry practice or technical systems, and simply meet other like minded people. This can be especially important to those in smaller companies who may not have a great deal of engineers at their age or professional level who they can relate to. ■

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