

Anthony Davidson

Written by: Kira Gangbin

In 2014, Anthony graduated from Fresno State with a major in Construction Management and a minor in Business. He went on to pursue his Master's in Construction Management through Louisiana State University. Currently he works for McCarthy and has been there for the last two years. He hopes to be a Senior Superintendent within the next few years.



Kira Gangbin: What have you enjoyed the most about the Construction Management program?

Anthony Davidson: Building relationships with other students, sharing experiences from the program, internships, and the CM events, such as, the Reno Competition, Hogs Breath, and CM Banquet. Also, the program is set up in a way that you get to know your professors. They can be great mentors.

Kira: What experiences, knowledge, or skills have you learned/ been able to apply in professional work setting coming from this department?

Anthony: First thing that comes to mind is the multiple opportunities to network and meet others from both bigger and local companies within the industry. If you never thought networking is important, then the CM department will provide opportunities for you to see how much of an impact relationships matter within the construction/ engineering industry.

Kira: What is your favorite memory from the Construction Management Program? (tell us a story)

Anthony: There are so many! The program curates some of the best people I have met in my life. The biggest impact was one day, Professor Hyatt, the Chair of the Department, in what I believe was the 'Intro to CM' class, shared with us how lucrative the industry can be, and gave some very sound financial and life advice. Thank you Brad for that!

Kira: Who was your favorite professor?

Anthony: From my story, I would say Professor Hyatt. You can tell how passionate he is not only about CM and teaching, but overall the tools required to be successful!

Kira: Did you do an internship? If so, where? Also, what advice do you have regarding internships?

Anthony: My answer will be more geared towards those "coming back to school" that have worked within the industry, that think they know it all. Remember we are ALWAYS learning no matter where we go and what we do. Also, this can apply to everyone. I came to the CM program with experience from the industry, and although I had some great experience, I kept being number 2 or 3 in company interviews for internships. I did not get one until I realized how important networking was, hence my answer to your previous question. Secondly, how important becoming involved in the clubs, and events were is also vital for success. Once I figured that out, I found I had more passion than I thought for construction, and I got an internship. I quit my carpenter job at \$52/hr for an internship with Granite Construction locally for \$17/hr, and that was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Kira: Have you pursued a Master's degree, or plan to?

Anthony: I have completed a Master's degree in CM through LSU. Bulldogs and Tigers are similar somewhat, right!? 😊

Kira: Do you have any friends or family attending Lyles College of Engineering, or the Construction Management Department?

Anthony: I currently do not have any friends or family attending, but my daughter wants to go to Fresno State in her future!

Kira: What was your job title when first starting your Construction Management career?

Anthony: Project Engineer

Kira: How far has your career grown?

Anthony: I am blessed to be where I am currently, and projects I have experienced. I have been lucky enough to have been a part of three projects each being over \$1B+ that have taken up the last 5 years. These projects consisted of two high profile ground up hospitals, and a short stint at a well known tech company mega project. Those projects are like a fire hose to your mouth, and if you are up for the challenge and ready to keep learning and growing, then you will be just fine and grow your career rather quickly. Now I am in the position to soon be a Senior Superintendent within the next year or two. Not too bad only being 5 years out of the program.

Kira: Who inspired you to pursue this career and why?

Anthony: I grew up in construction because my dad had a residential and light commercial construction business. I would always get sucked into going with him. The truth is, at one point, I never wanted to be in construction. I can thank my Dad for my career and knowledge earlier on in my life that has propelled my career. Moreover, it has made our relationship ever better.

Kira: What did you want to be when you were little? Has it always involved Construction Management?

Anthony: I had the same dream every kid had, to be rich! I can say I have always had a passion to build. I believe construction has been my path to that, and has taught me a lot in many aspects of my life.

Kira: How have you seen Construction Management grow?

Anthony: The industry is growing and changing. What is changing and growing, is the mentality and approach to teams and projects.

Kira: Where do you think Construction will be in the next ten years?

Anthony: Although I have a lengthy theory, to make it plain and simple, I see the industry being more about genuine care for people than the rough and tough stereotype it has.

Kira: What is your favorite part of the job?

Anthony: My favorite part, and I would not call it a job anymore, is building relationships, and learning about all the project stakeholders, and what makes them tick. Although the industry is big, the reality is, it is really small.

Kira: Are you a father with a family, how do you manage your work-life balance?

Anthony: I am a father, and now of six kids! I only had three kids while going through the CM program, so you can say work-life balance is a must! My advice here, and it has served me well thus far, and as a second warning it is not the norm, but the question of work-life balance comes down to how well you manage yourself, and how well can you adapt and change to an ever moving target. My mantra is if you cannot get your work done with quality and thoughtfulness in a typical 8 hour day or sooner, then you are doing something wrong. I feel the companies I have worked for have respected that. Yes, there are times that this type of job requires more of you, and you adapt and change to that, but that is not nearly every day. This might sound harsh because I see so many people focused on if their boss is working, so they must be too. But my question is always, are you over producing and is it providing value? More importantly, I wonder how their relationships are with their husband/wife and kids, or significant other, which is number one to me.

Kira: Is there anything about your Fresno State experience that makes you stand out?

Anthony: A few things stand out, and I think part of being a single dad of three kids while juggling life, school, and kids, was learning to manage myself and being adaptable to change without letting my emotions get in the way to be focused on my end goal. Lends to my perspective to the previous question.

Kira: Any last thoughts?

Anthony: One last piece of advice, and this goes back to being involved, networking, building relationships, and helping with your career; just as you became involved in clubs, groups, outreach, and volunteering within the CM program, continue to choose to do that for the company you work for.

Go Bulldogs!