

RTOY – Rationale (Sharon Surita)

I received both a Bachelor's Degree (2003) and Master's degree (2005) from FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. My major degree program was Civil and Environmental Engineering with an emphasis in Geotechnical Engineering. During my tenure at Florida State University, I held the office of treasurer for the American Society of Civil Engineers. Additionally, I was a member of the concrete canoe team during the 2002-2004 school years. Following my graduation from the University, I became a member of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) and obtained certification as a LEED ® Accredited Professional. I worked as an engineer for both the public and the private sectors for approximately 4 years post-graduation before I realized my desire to work in the field of education.

As a college student, I worked as a teacher's assistant in the First Year Engineering Lab and thoroughly enjoyed this assignment. I was able to assist students in identifying areas of interest in the engineering field and was able to assist in guiding them to refine their problem-solving skills. I also participated in the America Reads program which is a national campaign geared towards pre-school through 8th graders, improving their literacy and math skills.

I have attended and taken many online courses in professional development related to my subject area and will continue to be a life-long learner. Since new technologies are made available every day, there is always room to grow intellectually; and if I can instill this philosophy into students, I believe they will be motivated to strive for the best in everything they do inside and outside of the classroom.