

**Ms. Anthony Spring**  
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I graduated from The University of Akron in 1992 with my Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering and AAS Construction and Surveying in 1998.

**What led you to a career in the field of engineering?**

I was directed to engineering by a high school math teacher. I never thought that making the decision to become a civil engineer would allow me to work on the types of projects that I have been a part of - projects that literally make people's lives and the environment better. I love being able to go throughout the greater Cleveland area and say "I worked on that!"

**Why did you decide to serve on the IDEAs Advisory Council?**

The IDEAS program offers something to underrepresented students that is needed, which is a support system that helps encourage academic excellence, and provides mentorship. I am honored to be a resource to the program, and its participants whose stories about why they want to be engineers, and circumstances sound so much like mine when I was a student at the University.

**What are some of the factors that have contributed to your success?**

I think the quality that has contributed mostly to my success is being flexible and willing to go outside my comfort zone. I feel this is a good thing to practice, especially in a profession and time where technologies and applications change so frequently.

**What advice would you give to underrepresented engineering students/young professionals?**

Become a leader in your class or at your workplace. Seek out opportunities to expand your soft skills as well as your technical knowledge. Whatever you learn in the process, be willing to pass it on. Become a mentor to someone who may be interested in pursuing a similar path to yours.

**What advice would you give to young underrepresented students who would like to choose engineering as a major?**

There is no straight line path to success, but it is for you to decide what success looks like. Engineering is not an easy journey, but it can be very rewarding. The biggest reward is to do or be a part of something that makes this world a better place, by improving a product, system or a community.