



LISA
DUNN

COMPANY

TN Department of
Transportation

TITLE

Program Monitor Supervisor

**TRAINING ORGANIZATION
OR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:**

University of Phoenix

CERTIFICATION/DEGREE:

Masters in Business
Administration



memphis.edu/setwc

Q: How did you select your certification program or college major?

A: I started to get my degree as a paralegal but when I started with TDOT I was told if I got my paralegal degree I would only be allowed to work in the TDOT Legal Office. I am not sure if that is true or if they were just telling me that so I wouldn't change offices once I obtained my paralegal degree. In any event, I took some time off and when I went back I decided to do a general degree in business so that I would have more opportunities for work instead of a specified field such as law.

Q: What was the biggest influence in your selection of career pathway?

A: My current position at TDOT. I do not think I would have chosen a business degree had I not been working at TDOT when I finished my degree.

Q: What attracted you to the transportation industry?

A: Nothing in particular attracted me to the transportation industry. I found myself unexpectedly unemployed and went to my local unemployment office and they had me complete an application and a lot of testing for a secretary position within the State. I interviewed with the Department of Health and the Department of Transportation and that evening I accepted an offer with the Department of Transportation.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A: The variety. I do not work with roads or bridges I work on pedestrian and bicycle facilities and historic preservation of transportation related facilities. So my work is not the same day in and day out every facility is completely different from another.

Q: How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?

A: Everyone thinks of transportation as vehicle but at the Department of Transportation we also have to look out for those that do not own or operate vehicles so we have to provide a means to get those people to public facilities or to the destination point they want to go to that day. We do this by offering sidewalks and bicycle facilities. A community that doesn't have public transportation for instance benefits everyone from local businesses to the individual's health when facilities are available for bicyclists and pedestrians to walk and/or ride on.

Q: What's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your professional career?

A: Provide underdeveloped communities with alternative transportation and the looks on the community's faces when the project is completed and they are able to go from their home to the doctor or grocery store safely.

Q: What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

A: The satisfaction that I may be completing a project that will help a community to safely get from one destination point to another.

Q: If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

A: A course in reading plans. I am terrible with directions and I cannot read a set of plans to save my life. I cannot tell you a measured distance or which direction I am going. It is awful and sometimes frustrating when I cannot figure out stuff on my own because of this.

Q: What advice would you share with students or anyone considering your profession?

A: You have to want to make a difference. If you don't have some passion or want to make a difference all you are doing then is making a pay check and you will become stressed and angry and not want to come to work and that can and will reflect in your work.