



TRANSPORTATION SPOTLIGHT

PROFESSIONAL: PAUL YOUNG

NAME: Paul Young

COMPANY: City of Memphis

TITLE: Director, Division of Housing
and Community Development

COLLEGE: University of TN-Knoxville;
University of Memphis

CERTIFICATION/DEGREE: BS in

Electrical Engineering; Masters of
City & Regional Planning; Masters of
Science in Business Administration

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

A: I knew that I like to work with gadgets, which is why I became interested in Electrical Engineering. I later developed a passion for real estate and redeveloping neighborhoods and communities, which prompted me to enroll in graduate school to focus on City Planning and Community Development.

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

A: My parents, who are Pastors of a church in Oakhaven, had a tremendous influence on my career path. They have instilled a spirit of giving back in me and my siblings, so all of my work is done with that end goal in mind.

Q: What attracted you to the transportation industry?

A: While I do not work directly in the transportation industry, it has a tremendous impact on neighborhood growth and development. It has been a driving force in this community, so it is important that we incorporate transportation planning into all the work that we do in the City. Transportation can be a driving factor in how people decide where to live, work and play, which has impacts on how a community grows (or lack thereof).

Q: What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A: Problem solving and working with community members is my favorite part of the job. Neighborhood redevelopment can be very difficult and tedious, but it is very rewarding to be able to find a solution that helps the community and is financially feasible.

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

A: We make a positive impact on the community by investing in projects that have the ability to serve as a catalyst for future development and hubs for neighborhood activity.

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

A: Last year, I was one of 25 young Americans that traveled to Switzerland to explore opportunities for our countries to collaborate. It was very interesting to see how democracy plays out in other countries.



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

A: I am excited each and every day I go to work because I know that I am in a position to have a positive impact on someone else's life.

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

A: I would love to go back and take an elective course on Spanish, because as this country continues to grow more diverse it would be helpful for effective communication.

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

A: I would tell anyone considering this profession that it is very rewarding and hard work. The change that you want to see is incremental, so don't be discouraged if things don't change immediately. Just know that your impact is being felt and keep exploring new ways to address these age old problems that plague communities.