

It Shows

A St. Marys native, Jenn Stebick now finds herself employed at NELO in Washington, DC. Working four 10-hour days on the job allows her to have three-day weekends to spend with her husband and two children.

Preparation and opportunity met at the right time in Jenn's life and she finds herself in a position she would never have dreamed about five years ago - working as a contract specialist for the Navy.

"The engineering, accounting, and business combination that had been the basis of my education were intriguing aspects to the Navy as they reviewed my training and experience." says Jenn.

Turning challenges into positive results - Jenn does that very well in so many aspects of her life. Read more about Jenn's exciting progression to her current position.

Penn State in your career-It Shows.

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Jennifer Stebick
Graduate of engineering and business programs at Penn State DuBois
Employed by the Navy Engineering Logistics Office (NELO)

"If you would have asked me five years ago if I would be working in DC, I would have said 'what are you talking about — are you nuts'. But here I am and enjoying every minute of the job."

Prior to the start of the education adventure that ended in DC, Jennifer Stebick was very involved in the job she had in the machine shop of an area employer. She had also completed a 2 year degree in specialized technology for machine shops. Her career plans included moving into engineering and she had completed some training in that area. Her plans changed dramatically with a company layoff and her eligibility for TRA (Trade Readjustment Allowances); at the end of the journey that followed, she now finds herself working as a Contract Specialist for

the Navy Engineering Logistics Office (NELO) in Washington, DC.

"I am so glad that I took advantage of the TRA and returned to school. I'd encourage anyone who has the same opportunity to 'take it' because you never know where the education and the degree will take you." said Jenn.

While she had already completed 34 credits toward the associate degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology during the time she was employed, the layoff and availability of TRA funding meant that Jenn could finish the associate degree and progress to the baccalaureate degree. "If there had been a four-year engineering degree available at Penn State DuBois at that time, I would

probably have completed the baccalaureate degree in engineering at DuBois. Completing the baccalaureate degree in engineering at University Park was just not an option for me. I was laid off from work and had family responsibilities; driving to UP from St. Marys for classes was not a possibility. Since I wanted to earn a baccalaureate degree at DuBois, I chose the Business degree.” By the time she was finished, Jenn had amassed 152 credits.

“The 2 year degree in MET was great. I thought when I finished the degree that I would be involved in design or be employed as a production engineer, process engineer, quality engineer, or manufacturing engineer. I would have been interested in working in any of those jobs in any locale. I found the Dynamics course, the Strength of Materials course, the CAD courses, and so many others in the program especially useful. I had always liked the engineering related activities that I did in my job; once I was in the degree program, I gained a better understanding of what is behind the mathematics and engineering formulas that are used. We had a great number of hands-on experiences in the Penn State DuBois degree program; we didn’t just sit behind the desk. In one of the engineering courses (MET 210W) we did a semester long project, working in groups, that required us to use formulas and complete all of the calculations to put a system together — a gear reduction box.”

“When I moved into the baccalaureate degree in business, I also decided to complete an emphasis on accounting because I liked the challenge. Engineering and accounting are both difficult, but with a little hard work and determination, anything is possible. My engineering degree has made it much easier for me to interact with the Navy, baccalaureate degree engineers – I understand where they are coming from, with regard to the technical side of things, because of my engineering background.”

During the fall semester 2008, Jenn attended a career fair at University Park. There was a booth at the fair featuring the Navy, offering finance and contracts jobs. Jenn visited the booth to determine what positions the Navy had to offer in the finance arena. She submitted a resume; the Navy was interested in her resume with its combination of engineering, accounting, and business. Nine months later, in August 2009, Jenn began her career, not in finance, but as a Contract Specialist in the Department of the Navy. While St. Marys is still home to her, her husband, and children, Jenn finds herself in Washington, DC for 4 days each week, working 10-hour days. She also has the opportunity to enjoy 3-day weekends with her family in St. Marys.

While the details of her job are classified, Jenn does engage in negotiating contracts for the Navy.

“The negotiation techniques that I learned in the business program at Penn State DuBois help me on a daily basis in

this job. Throughout all of the business courses, there was an emphasis on ethics and ethical decision making and those ideas are usable on the job here too. The basic English course and the more advanced Business Writing course gave me some of the skills for working on legal documents and Navy contracts. My business internship with the Social Security Administration sparked my interest in working for the federal government. Now, all of the pieces have fallen together for this job with the Navy and I love the job. The only thing that would make it better would be to be able to pick the job up and bring it back to the local area.”

“Penn State DuBois was a great place for me as an adult learner and provided me with the education to be where I am now. The school is small and close knit. The work is challenging and I want it to be challenging. But, when you are stuck you know that you have the readily accessible resources to be able to handle it. It was a little tough for me to get back into math at first. Once I got back into it, I could remember much of it from high school.”

“Going back to school is like riding a bicycle --- once you learn how to study, you don’t forget. What you need to do is to bring those skills back out and use them in a new environment.”



Jenn Stebick
2 MET and BSBCC graduate -
Penn State DuBois

For more information on the associate and baccalaureate degrees available at Penn State DuBois, call 814-375-4720 or visit www.dubois.psu.edu.