



SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

GET TO KNOW KELLY LARKIN

What inspired you to become an engineer?

From a young age, I liked math and science and had a basic understanding of what engineering was as both my parents were computer scientists. In high school, I started taking computer science classes and fell in love with the logic side of computers, but wanted something a little more physical. I sort of fell into electrical engineering with those things in mind, but once I was taking those courses in college, I knew I was in the right place. Once I found out that electrical engineering was in that sweet spot of technical problem solving and seeing projects built in the real world, I knew I found what I wanted.

What is your favorite part about working at AKF?

AKF has been a great place to start and grow my career because of the people. Everyone is willing to assist on a project, either with production in a model or talking through a technical concept and giving expertise. I've made many lifelong friends at AKF, and I'm sure that will continue as the company grows.

What is your favorite industry to design for?

Definitely healthcare — the ability to be part of the process of improving people's health and saving lives is incredible. There's also a lot of amazing advancements in that industry that are very cool to see and be involved in, such as the da Vinci surgical robots that are being installed on a few of my projects. While the codes are stricter for healthcare projects, I enjoy the challenge of meeting the different design requirements to make happy clients.

What did you want to be when you were a child?

I wanted to be just like my mom!

What excites you about the work you're doing?

Working mostly in the healthcare sector, I'm really passionate that the projects we design can actually help save lives. During the peak of COVID, some of my projects helped clients adapt existing spaces to support more patients. In the midst of so much tragedy, I was glad that the work we do was able to help people in need. We work on a number of cool projects outside of healthcare, but those are always my favorite since they can directly cause good in the world.

Who has made the biggest impact on your career?

A number of different engineers have had a big impact on my career. Anthony Bastardi was the first person I worked with and taught me the groundwork of everything I know. Christina Samodulski helped teach me a lot as I grew to be a mid-level engineer and began project managing. Mike Graber has always kept an eye out for me as my mentor. AKF has given me a lot of great people to work with over the years.

What is a project you're most proud of?

The project I'm most proud of is actually my first project at AKF. I was brand new to the industry and was staffed to a full hospital separation of power project. This project actually went down to branch level circuits, so I was able to survey and look at every emergency power circuit for the whole hospital and put it on the correct branch of emergency power. I've done some separation of power projects since then but getting to know a full hospital like the back of my hand was a very cool introduction to this industry and is still one of my favorites because of that.

CONNECT WITH KELLY!



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