

Young Professional of the Year Nominee

Name: Heather Contant

Title: Director of Media Relations & Communications

Business: Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation

Address: 22 Artisan Dr, Smyrna, DE 19977

Telephone: 302-653-2733

Email: hcontant@demecinc.net



Number of Years at your current company/organization: 3 years

Describe your current role with the company/organization: As the Director of Media Relations and Communications, I manage the company's external communications. This includes the company's social media pages, website, press releases, public presentations, educational materials like brochures and booklets, and legislative/government outreach. My role also includes assisting our member communities with graphics, ideas, and materials that help educate their electric customers on the benefits of living or owning a business in a public power community. From the time I was hired, my job has been to spread the word about the benefits of public power and joint action agencies, like DEMEC.

What are your professional goals in the next three to five years? In the next three to five years I see myself growing my role at DEMEC and becoming more involved in coordinating efforts among our member communities, as well as playing a larger role in our governmental affairs to increase our public outreach. I plan to become more involved in community organizations and various committees to increase our impact throughout the state and grow partnerships on a local, state, and federal level.

What distinguishes you from other young professionals? (Give an example of your positive leadership or achievements.) I believe my openness to new opportunities and desire to grow professionally and personally distinguishes me from other young professionals. While in the middle of obtaining my bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware, I took a year off school to fulfill my year of service as Miss Delaware 2009, skipping my junior year. That year was dedicated to working closely with government officials and school systems and volunteering with local charities and nonprofits throughout the state. During my senior year, I worked as a Legislative Fellow with the Delaware State Senate and within a month of interning there, secured my first full-time job as a Legislative Assistant. During that time, I worked with various state agencies, community groups, businesses and organizations. I have always seen experiences as opportunities to grow. Working as the Ombudsman for the Delaware Public Service Commission and now working at DEMEC, my career shifted towards utilities and growing a better understanding of how they impact our daily lives and communicating that to the public. The roles I have played throughout my career have made me a stronger leader, public speaker, and more well-rounded individual. I fully believe that the amount of time you spend in a job does not mean nearly as much as the impact you are able to make while you are there and how much you learn from it.

What contributions have you made in the community?

Serving on boards/committees: Member of the Delaware Board of Examiners of Psychologists and Marketing Chair for the CenDel Foundation

Serving as a volunteer: American Heart Association – Southern Delaware Heart Ball volunteer leader, Food Bank of Delaware volunteer, Miss Delaware Scholarship Organization volunteer and donor, and volunteering for various campaigns and church activities

Additional personal information you would like to share: (Educational background, accomplishments, awards received, etc.) I graduated from Caesar Rodney High School and then earned my bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Delaware. While in college I became Miss Delaware 2009, representing Delaware at Miss America 2010. I am also a graduate of the Dale Carnegie Institute. Recently, I was awarded the American Public Power Association's 2019 Excellence in Public Power Communications Award for Social Media and Web.