



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: HALIE MILLER

"Grow Where You Are Planted"
(October 2021)



When Halie Miller began her career at the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), she had no idea that she would one day end up working at the center of the largest transportation project in the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia: the HRBT Expansion Project.

Growing up in the coastal city of Virginia Beach, Virginia, just a few miles from the Sandbridge beaches, it was rare for Halie to venture out on the main roads, highways, and bridges. "Our community had everything we needed within just a few miles of our home," says Halie, reminiscing on growing up not aware of the intricate highway system in Hampton Roads.

After graduating high school, Halie worked in early childhood development and eventually went on to become a full-time nanny for a local Virginia Beach couple. According to Halie, "It was a dream job for a young adult. The family lived at the beach, I got the opportunity to travel with them, and their child was

delightful." It was during that time Halie found her passion - organizing. Halie's unmatched skills for organization was the talk of the community. From closets to kitchen pantries, the neighbors began calling.

Her passion to move forward in life, and the attractiveness of a career with benefits influenced Halie to move into the corporate world. With no experience in traffic management, but a wealth of knowledge in organization, Halie landed a job at VDOT's Traffic Operations Center (TOC) as a contractor.

While at the TOC, Halie was a quick learner. Her professionalism, flexibility, organization skills and work ethic did not go unnoticed. After 6 months on the job, Halie had proved to be an asset to the TOC team. Within a few years, Halie became a fulltime VDOT employee, advancing from receptionist to administrative assistant. It was the high energy and busy pace at TOC that intrigued Halie. "There was always something to do and accomplish at TOC. I was able to see highway safety from a different perspective."

Seeing an opportunity for career growth with the HRBT Expansion Project, she applied for the Executive Assistant position for the VDOT Project Director. After a series of interviews, Halie was selected for the position. From day one, Halie has been a key member of the project team, at the hub of organization. From meeting scheduling and planning, to approving invoices and managing finances, Halie plays a vital role in project management. When asked what it took to get here, Halie said this, "You must have faith, and believe in yourself. Even if it's scary, do it anyway. I was afraid and nervous, but I knew I wanted to move on in life."

Outside of her role on the project, Halie has a 4-year-old son, Cooper, who keeps her in a mindset of continual growth. She's an avid gardener, a skill she developed from her late mother, and in a way, keeps her connected to her mom who passed away in Halie's early teen years. "It brings me so much joy...watching something grow from seed to full bloom."

What's next for Halie once the project ends in 2025? Through her experience at the HRBT Project she was able to obtain her VCA Certification and that, coupled with her excellent reputation within the community and VDOT, her positive attitude and impeccable work ethic, the sky is the limit. -END-