

Taylor Repko ('21) remembers Professor Cleary's Reinforced Concrete class

Taylor Repko was born in Chester, PA. She grew up in Swedesboro, NJ. Her mother is a homemaker. Her father is an Aircraft technician for the CH-47 Chinook at Boeing, in Prospect Park, PA. Taylor has two younger sisters. One is getting her RN license this spring. The other starts Rowan this Fall in Mechanical Engineering and has committed to the lacrosse team. Taylor is very excited for her, especially with how Rowan is growing.

Taylor graduated from Rowan Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2021. She immediately started a full-time job as a project engineer at Richard E. Pierson Construction Co and an on-line part-time Master's in Structural Engineering at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, which she finished in 2023.

In 2024, Taylor became a Project Manager in the US Army Corps of Engineers Marine Design Center, in Philadelphia, PA, the Corps center of expertise and experience for the development and application of naval architecture and engineering. She is currently managing a project to procure a new dredging ship for a particular location.

Taylor passed the Fundamentals of Engineering exam and plans to pursue her Professional Engineer¹ license next year. She is a runner and recently completed her first marathon. She just bought her first home.

I only applied to Rowan. It was the perfect fit for me. There was the new Engineering building. And the program was growing. I originally wanted to be an Imagineer for Disney. I chose Civil and Environmental Engineering because it is so broad. Ultimately, I chose to stay in South Jersey instead of pursuing work at Disney and I have no regrets.

I got a CIAP² scholarship while at Rowan and interned at Richard E. Pierson. That was a great experience. I saw the project management side of things. Professors Cleary and Jahan were important to my growth, as was the American Society of Civil Engineers chapter. I was the chapter president for a year. I got to network with New Jersey Civil Engineers, including Brad Summerville ('01). We planned to host a regional ASCE conference, but it got canceled due to Covid. Still, I learned a lot doing all the planning. Professor Cleary's Reinforced Concrete class convinced me to pursue my Structural Masters.

Rowan prepared me well for my Master's and real-world work. The Engineering Clinics³ gave me an advantage over the other students in my Master's program, especially how to write and speak.

My time at Rowan was amazing. It was the best four years of my life so far. I commuted for the first three years, then lived on campus the last year. The relationships and friendships I made at Rowan are irreplaceable.



Based on an Interview with Jess W. Everett on 2024-3-18

1. The Professional Engineer license (PE) is a “standard recognized by employers and their clients, by governments and by the public as an assurance of dedication, skill and quality...Only PEs can sign and seal engineering drawings...To become a Licensed Professional Engineer, you must do four things: graduate from an accredited engineering program, pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam, work with a professional engineer for four years, and pass the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam.”

2. The Construction Industry Advancement Program of New Jersey “offers an array of industry and education programs, providing support, and other services to the Heavy Highway Construction and related industries in New Jersey.”

3. Engineering Clinic is a hallmark of Rowan University. Students take a Clinic class each semester, eight total. Many are interdisciplinary. All are hands-on. First-year Clinics focus on engineering’s place in society and fundamental engineering skills. Sophomore Clinics merge communication coursework with an engineering design experience and are team taught by engineering, writing arts, and rhetoric faculty. Junior and Senior Clinics have students work in teams on research or design projects, usually externally funded.