



LINDSEY CONSTANTINO is a Program Associate for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration. She graduated from Cal Poly with a Political Science degree in 2013.

## **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

*Lindsey Constantino*

Lindsey Constantino did not waste any time while she attended Cal Poly. From being a member of Kappa Alpha Theta to multiple internships, she took full advantage of the opportunities available. Originally, Lindsey did not have any aspirations in the field of politics. She came to Cal Poly as a History major, but after witnessing the 2008 presidential election and the beginning of President Obama's first term in office, Lindsey found her interests shifting and decided to major in political science. This passion would lead her to take on various jobs, each providing her with a unique experience.

The class structure at Cal Poly greatly benefited Lindsey. Discussions made her more comfortable with public speaking, which has been a great aid in conference calls and meetings with officials and coworkers. She could make sure that her opinions were heard without any embarrassment. Also, critical thinking skills allowed her to analyze large amounts of information with ease.

One of her best experiences at Cal Poly was with the school's Model United Nations Team (MUN). "This class takes Cal Poly's motto of learn by doing to heart, as you are able to practice what you learned in the classroom in New York City," she said. Lindsey participated in MUN multiple times. Her east coast adventures familiarized Lindsey with the area, and ended any fears she had about moving to the east coast after graduation. These were not her only

trips outside of California. Lindsey was also a White House Intern in the fall of 2012. This internship has continuously had a positive impact in her career searches, and she still participates in the White House Internship through an Alumni Professional Development Committee. The White House has even invited her to return recently as a part of an “Internship Homecoming.” Lindsey also spent time in Italy as part of the CSU’s study abroad program.

Lindsey’s work experiences have been equally as varied as her experiences at Cal Poly. Only 3 days after graduation she started working as an intern for Net Optics, a Silicon Valley company. Here she was able to grow her professional network by forging close relationships with staff, as well as acquire knowledge outside the usual confines of politics. From Net Optics, she moved on to become a Program Coordinator for the Institute of International Education (IIE). Of the multiple programs she worked on at IIE, one of her proudest was working with the Brazilian government to provide 100,000 Brazilian university students an opportunity to study in the U.S. These work experiences expanded Lindsey’s skills in one particular way or another and they are all responsible for helping her acquire her current job with the U.S. government.

Lindsey now works under contract for the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) as a Program Associate. She is responsible for communicating with stakeholders and writing briefs for the Office of Hazardous Material Safety, and also works on federal projects. Lindsey is currently helping execute Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The FAST Act’s purpose is to advance important transportation projects, and specific mandates that Lindsey oversees involve the safe transportation of energy products, such as crude oil. Lindsey has always had a passion for public service, but she is still trying to narrow down her interests. Within the next few years she plans to further her education by attending graduate school, and from there the possibilities for such a distinguished alum are endless.