

# MESA ENGINEERING PROGRAM (MEP)

## Graduate Profile



**Name:** J. Abel Huerta

**Major:** Civil Engineering

**Student Organizations:** Latinos in Technical Careers (LTC), a student chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), Gamma Zeta Alpha Fraternity

**Graduation Year:** California State University, Chico, 1993, Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering.

**Current Employer:** State of California, Department of Transportation (CalTrans), District 3

**Job Title:** Project Engineer-(Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range D)

**Job Description:** I have worked for CalTrans as a Student Assistant from 1988-1992 while attending Chico State and as Engineer since 1993 in various functional units at different locations in the State (i.e. roadway design, hydraulics, maintenance engineering, and roadway & structure construction).

Currently, I work as a Project Engineer in North Region Division of Design & Engineering Services (Marysville). I am a Registered Professional Engineer (Civil) in a design team. I am responsible in charge for engineering work in preparing Project Reports, Contract Plans, specifications, and cost estimates for transportation improvement projects in conformance with State and Federal design standards and train new design team members. Also, I use engineering computer programs in performing engineering design and drafting plans.

**How did the MESA Engineering Program (MEP) help you?** MEP helped me in many ways and provided me with: financial assistance (scholarships); peer study groups and tutorial assistance; counseling and planning for completing CE curriculum; and, providing me with support and confidence in pursuing and achieving my goals in obtaining an engineering degree.

**DID YOU RECEIVE ANY SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE MESA PROGRAM:** Yes, the numerous MEP scholarships I received provided me with financial support to allow me to pay for college and living expenses. The scholarships were an honor for scholastic achievement and were of valuable assistance, since I paid for my education without any other support and my parents could not afford to assist me.

**ADVICE FOR CURRENT CHICO STATE MESA STUDENTS:**

My advice is for: Utilize the peer support and services provided by the MEP/MESA programs to assist you with succeeding in college. Make the effort to participate in the MEP/MESA and Engineering student organizations and attend job fairs in order obtain student assistant position or CO-OP. Do not allow other people's criticism or setbacks discourage you in achieving your goal to become an engineer or scientist. There are many opportunities in the job market available and diversity is a valuable asset that is needed.



Abel Huerta visits the Oakland/ San Francisco job site at the Bay Bridge fall 2006.

