



Featured Employee: Sean Ferguson

TJCAA's Business Certifications

- Alameda County Small, Local Emerging Business
- California DGS SBE
- California Green Business
- City of Colton SBE
- City of Los Angeles SBE
- City of Oakland LBE
- CPUC Women Owned Enterprise
- Eastern Municipal Water District SBE
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency SBE
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California SBE
- San Diego County Water Authority SBE
- Port of Long Beach SBE
- Port of Oakland LIABE/SBE/VSBE
- PWC Registration—Dept of Industrial Relations (DIR)
- West Basin Municipal Water District SBE

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Sean Ferguson joined the team in February, and he's settling into his new role as TJCAA's newest Automation Engineer.

Sean acquired his early experience at the University of the Pacific, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering (and also met his future wife—but more on that later). Since then, he's continued to hone a wide range of skills ranging from problem-solving and communication to programming and implementation.



His first job working as an engineering liaison is likely where he sharpened what he considers his most valuable skill: troubleshooting. In his role acting as the middle person between the engineering and manufacturing groups, Sean says, "It was my job to understand what the problem was, how we needed to approach to fix it, and then pass that back and forth."

Beyond what he learned in school, Sean is largely self-taught. His next job was with Rapid Accu-Form Inc., where, as he describes it, "I got my hands on programming." When asked to describe Rapid Accu-Form's business in plastic thermoforming, Sean says, "The best example I can think of is the most frustrating one—you know when you go buy a pack of scissors, and they're in that

formed plastic?" Enough said—we all know what it's like to wrestle a fresh pair of scissors out of their packaging.

Rapid Accu-Form was Sean's first introduction to industrial tech programming, and the programming skills he learned there blended well with his existing skillset. When assigned a project to figure out how to seal two pieces of plastic together, Sean "designed, built, and programmed this machine that would fit and push those pieces together."

Beyond being good at what he does, Sean also manages to fit in wherever he lands, thanks to his friendly and enthusiastic demeanor. According to Sean's wife (who is also an engineer), "My husband's superpower is that everybody likes him." Even when describing the challenges of his work (e.g., achieving customer satisfaction within the scope of a project, or having to spend a lot of time figuring out how to use a program that you've never touched before), Sean is enthusiastic: "It can kinda be fun, depending on the situation you're in."

Beyond work, Sean fills his time with playing golf, collecting trading cards, hosting the occasional board-game night at his house, and talking shop with his wife. With her mechanical design background and his implementation expertise, the two of them form a bit of a power team. "It's always fun because we think along the same lines."

No doubt Sean will bring that same enthusiasm for his work to his role at TJCAA. Welcome to the team, Sean!

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