



# Sloan Career Cornerstone Center

## Profiles of Physicists



**Sharon Lappin**

**Intermediate Highway Designer  
Missouri Department of Transportation**

**Education:**

B.S. -- Physics; William Jewell College  
B.S. -- Civil Engineering; University of Missouri, Columbia

**Job Description:**

Intermediate Highway Designer, designing bridges, retaining walls, and box culverts.

**Comments:**

"At times, I had to gain the respect of people who would rather not have a college student or a woman inspecting their work."

**Interview:**

"I had a summer job with the Streets and Traffic Division of the Kansas City, Missouri Public Works Division. As the Utility Coordinator and a Street Resurfacing Inspector, I acquired experience in scheduling projects and working with other agencies and contractors. At times, I had to gain the respect of people who would rather not have a college student or a woman inspecting their work. Through the William Jewell College Mentor Program, I was matched with a civil engineer from Woodward-Clyde Consultants. He showed me that civil engineering is a fascinating career field."

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Prepared as part of the Sloan Career Cornerstone Center ([www.careercornerstone.org](http://www.careercornerstone.org))

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