



Tennessee Department of Transportation

The Civil Rights Division is celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month by recognizing some of our employees.

Employee Spotlight: Nikita Graves

Transportation Project Specialist, ROW Engineer,
Region 2, Project Development



She enjoys spending time with her husband, Dylan, son, Niam and her two dogs, Cosmo and Nova. She loves hiking, being outside, and going to outdoor concerts in the summer.

“Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and test of our civilization.” -Mahatma Gandhi

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

Joined TDOT Family October 2016

What does Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month mean to you and why?

It is important to me being Asian American, to remember my history and to be proud of who I am. Also, it is a great time to remember and recognize the accomplishments, successes, and contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islander community members.

What had the biggest influence on your career?

My uncle had a big influence on my career. He is also a Civil Engineer and growing up he would tell me about his job. Even at a young age, I enjoyed listening to him and learning about his work. I knew I wanted to become a Civil Engineer as well.

The TDOT EPIC initiative was launched recently. How do you see your role as empowering people and influencing the culture?

EPIC will hopefully give people new opportunities that will help them grow within their career and create a positive work environment that everyone enjoys.

How do you suggest we create a workforce that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion?

It is the responsibility of every employee, including my own, to continue shaping the TDOT culture into one that is equal, inclusive, and accepting of all people's thoughts and opinions regardless of a person's race, background, or education levels.