

# Leading the Industry Today and Into the Future

Prime Engineering, a professional consulting firm specializing in civil engineering and land development services in Farmingville, is revered for its quality plans, in-depth industry knowledge, customer service, integrity, and passion for the engineering profession. This passion goes beyond filling today's demands for qualified workers - it extends into developing and guiding future engineers — a group that Prime Engineering describes as a dying breed.

Leading this initiative are Prime Engineering's Principals and co-Founders Marc Pilotta, PE and Jaclyn Peranteau, PE.

"We are seeing a lack of people entering the engineering field and this is having a negative impact on the industry and will continue to do so for years to come unless action is taken," Peranteau said.

To combat the shortage of engineering talent, Prime Engineering is involved with mentoring younger engineers, introducing young students to math and engineering, as well as building relationships with various local universities with engineering programs.

"As professional engineers, we are promoting and protecting our profession," Pilotta said. "As business owners, we are concerned about growing our business and the issues that are going to be associated with not having a pool of talented people to hire employees from."

To assure that new talent continues to grow, Prime Engineering has participated in the Long Island Real Estate Group's (LIREG) work share program in partnership with Hofstra University. "This is a work share program where they send students here for the day so we can work with and inform them first-hand about what we do as engineers and how it ties into development," Peranteau said.

Additionally, both Peranteau and Pilotta work close-



**Pictured are Prime Engineering's Principals and co-Founders Marc Pilotta, PE and Jaclyn Peranteau, PE.**

ly with other local universities including Stony Brook University, middle schools & high schools and also local community organizations, all in an effort to engage students into the engineering field.

"We work with Mathcounts, a middle school math competition, participated in Hofstra's internship program and hired a local engineering student from Stony Brook University as a summer intern this year," Peranteau said. "We hope that by investing our time into the future, the engineering profession will benefit."

"In addition to the lack of people entering the engineering field, many of the more experienced engineers are of retiring age and not mentoring the younger engineers," Pilotta noted.

"When we go to continuing education seminars, most attendees are over the age of 65," he said. "They are

planning to retire and very few are having an opportunity to mentor and pass down knowledge that only comes with experience. With the economy recovering, Prime Engineering's workload has been increasing. And without a pool of qualified engineers to hire from, it is a challenge to grow business." Peranteau continued, "We would love to find someone with 10 to 15 years of experience, but that skill-level is just not out there. So, we have found that hiring directly out of school and training and building from within has proven successful for us thus far."

Building up and preparing for the future is the top priority for Prime Engineering. In October 2015, Prime Engineering is moving into a 3,500-sq.-ft. office in Holtsville, doubling its current size. The firm is also welcoming a new full time Professional Engineer in October and will continue looking to expand its staff.

"We anticipate hiring three new full time engineers within the next year," Pilotta said.

Prime Engineering, a New York State and New York City Certified Woman-Owned Business Enterprise, is licensed in eight states and continues to develop engineering partnerships with multiple organizations to complement its services.

"Our staffs' experience includes managing large and small size land development projects," Pilotta said. "Our areas of expertise are in residential, industrial, office and commercial projects. Our commercial projects include supermarkets, pharmacies, banks, neighborhood shopping centers, 'big box' retail centers, and restaurants."

"To keep up with the constantly evolving regulations of our business, we stay apprised of the changing codes, design requirements, and local political developments affecting our work — while never losing focus on the need and importance of future talent," Peranteau said.



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