

SPONSOR PROFILE

J'REYESHA BRANNON

DESIGNER/PROJECT MANAGER, CITY OF PORTLAND



University
of Portland 

Engineer, artist, entrepreneur and community advocate, J'reyesha Brannon is busy crafting a life of passion and purpose. Approaching eight years since she proudly earned a civil engineering degree from University of Portland, Brannon's emergence as a servant leader continues to make her alma mater immensely proud of her.

Brannon's impact starts with her day job: Designer and Project Manager for the City of Portland. A deep dedication to environmental justice fuels her work, engineering solutions to improve water systems and sewer infrastructure — often to limit the impact of construction on the community.

She describes the work as “incredibly essential,” which is a good way to describe Brannon's approach to public service. Devoting much of her free time to volunteering, mentoring and serving on committees, she values giving back and she's a person of action. “I show up when it's time,” she says.

Brannon shows up when there's a gap or a glaring need. Advocating for a more diverse workforce in STEM fields, she serves as Portland chapter president of the National Society of Black Engineers. In 2020, she created the Brannon Diversity Engineering Scholarship at University of Portland to encourage more BIPOC female students to pursue engineering careers.

“I know any sort of funding makes a difference, especially with students who come from families with historic exclusion to wealth access,” Brannon says.

“I want more kids who look like me to go into these fields, but not just because they look like me. There are economic development opportunities for communities that have been excluded.”

Brannon strives to be an accessible role model for young people — particularly BIPOC women — telling them, “you belong here,” and reinforcing her belief that career success is only one measure of an achiever's self-worth. It takes creative engineering for Brannon to juggle that full-time job with community engagements, a budding consulting business and pursuing her love of art. It seems her capacity for shining a light on her home city is matched only by her determination.

“I like to finish what I start.”