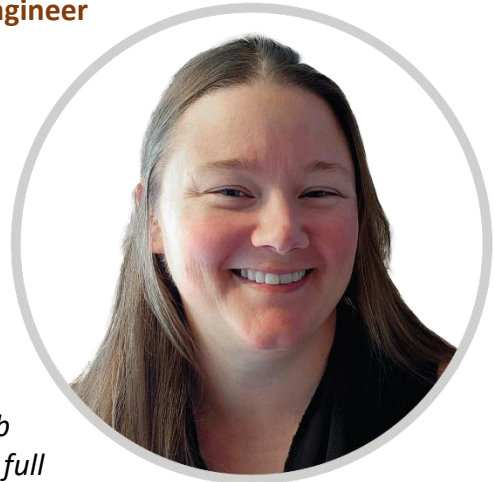


Crystal Leavey ('04) became a Civil and Environmental Engineer because engineering needs strong women

Crystal (Mattson) Leavey was born in Camden, NJ, but grew up in Sicklerville, NJ. Her father was an ironworker for different companies throughout the area for many years, until he started and ran his own business until retiring. Her mother was a document production specialist at a law firm. Her younger sister is a Rowan graduate in Education.



After graduating from Rowan in 2004, Crystal started a job and graduate school at Rowan with Professor Jahan, both full time! She is a Licensed Site Remediation Professional¹ with Aptim Environmental & Infrastructure, LLC, working remotely since the Covid pandemic. She conducts site visits, writes reports, reviews data, generates groundwater contours, designs site cleanup remediations, and supervises remediation construction. Most of her sites are industrial facilities with long term remediation plans. Many have chromate contamination. Crystal recently became regional lead for a new large storm water inspection program, supervising twelve inspectors in six states.

Crystal is busy outside of work raising two kids active in sports and music and spending time with her husband, who is also a 2004 Rowan graduate.

I remember a discussion with my father that influenced my decision to become an engineer. Based on his experience as an ironworker, dealing with engineering design issues, he thought engineering needed strong women like me. I chose Rowan engineering because it was close to home, affordable, and had small classes. I liked the interdisciplinary opportunities afforded by the Engineering Clinic² and the general education opportunities in the curriculum. I had summer internships in different areas of Civil Engineering while at Rowan but chose environmental as a career after a site remediation class with Professor Jahan.

I remember exploring how to think like an engineer in first-year Clinic. The public speaking and writing in sophomore Clinic helped with my career. Junior- and Senior-year Clinic was hands-on and real-world. I did all four semesters on site remediation projects with Professors Everett and Jahan. The Clinics provided me the opportunity to give poster presentations at conferences and co-author journal articles. Now, I use my presentation and writing skills all the time.

My time at Rowan was some of the best years of my life. It really prepared me for my career. I am now a subject matter expert at my company. Clients call for advice, even if I am not working on their specific project. I can research like nobody's business because of Clinic! I'm not sure I would be doing what I do, and as successfully as I do, if I hadn't gone to Rowan. My oldest is interested in engineering and I would be happy sending him to Rowan!

Based on an Interview with Jess W. Everett on January 29, 2024

1. "In May 2009, the Governor signed the Site Remediation Reform Act (SRRA) into law...SRRA establishes a licensing program for Site Remediation Professionals (LSRPs) who have responsibility for oversight of environmental investigation and cleanups. The LSRP's highest priority is protection of public health and safety and the environment. Although the law changes the administrative process, it maintains the existing NJDEP clean-up standards. The NJDEP continues to have final authority over the clean-up process by requiring that remediating parties comply with applicable regulations, but the day-to-day management of cleanups is overseen by LSRPs."

2. Engineering Clinic is a hallmark of Rowan University. Students take a Clinic class each semester, eight total. Many are interdisciplinary. All are hands-on. First-year Clinics focus on engineering's place in society and fundamental engineering skills. Sophomore Clinics merge communication coursework with an engineering design experience and are team taught by engineering, writing arts, and rhetoric faculty. Junior and Senior Clinics give students to work in teams an opportunity to work on research or design projects, usually externally funded.