

## 2017 Intern Award

### *Timothy Klaas, EIT*



Timothy's primary goal has always been to use his skill set to improve people's lives, but it was the two years he spent in Sudan doing humanitarian work that led him down the path of engineering. During his time in Sudan, Timothy worked alongside a number of engineers; it was here that he had the opportunity to see firsthand how engineering technical skills can make a dramatic impact on the lives of people in developing countries. Motivated to help make the biggest impact possible, he was inspired to return to school to study engineering. While in school, Timothy took a position with Neegan Burnside, performing asset condition inspections on First Nation Reserves in Manitoba. Timothy travelled to First Nation Reserves to inspect and report on the conditions of schools, water & sewer treatment plants, roads, and band council buildings. He also did work on Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments to determine the extent of soil contamination on several First Nations Reserves.

In 2014, Timothy accomplished the next step in his long term goal by graduating from the University of Manitoba with a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering. After graduation, Timothy started working for Manitoba Hydro. Timothy started in the Engineering-in-Training program with the Water Resources Engineering Department where he did climate analyses to characterize climate along specific transmission corridors and predict possible future climate scenarios. At the end of his rotation, he moved to the Keeyask Project team where he worked as a cost engineer. At the end of this term, Timothy found his permanent home as a project manager within the Power Projects Department. Some of Timothy's recent projects include completing security upgrades at Manitoba Hydro's generating stations and working on replacing the Unit Control Systems at Limestone and Jenpeg generating stations. In 2015, Timothy became a Project Management Professional through the Project Management Institute.

In his free time Timothy is heavily involved in his community. Timothy sits on the executive committee of the Manitoba chapter of the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE), serving as the group treasurer. In addition to his work with AACE, Timothy volunteers his time to help teach Excel skills to journalism students at Red River College. Timothy's latest endeavour has been setting up the support required to sponsor a refugee family of four from Syria. To date he has worked with a group of fellow humanitarians and the Government of Canada to set up a joint sponsorship. His group has been responsible for raising nearly \$20,000, securing furniture and other donations, preparing support systems such as language training and school for the children, and finding an affordable place to live. The Syrian family is currently in Jordan awaiting final health and security checks. Timothy and his group of humanitarians are looking forward to their arrival so they can start helping them integrate into Canadian society.

Timothy has been recognized by numerous awards, including the 2014 Landsdowne Award for Academic Achievement in Engineering and the 2008 World Vision Humanitarian Assistance Award. In the future Timothy is hoping to return to doing international work, until then he will continue to build his skills and work to improve the quality of life of Manitobans.

In recognition of his exceptional achievements as a trainee, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba is pleased to present the 2017 Intern Award to Timothy Klaas, EIT.