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Peterson honored for engineering achievements

Jason Peterson, a project manager for the Brookings-based engineering firm Civil Design, Inc., was selected for the Outstanding Young Civil Engineer Award by the Eastern Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The award was given during National Engineer's Week held this year from Feb. 15 to 20. Peterson passed his professional engineer (PE) exam and was certified as a professional engineer in January.

"Jason is a great employee and engineer. He has a great ability to deal with people in all situations and is very astute in his technical ability," said Carey Bretsch, President of CDI. "We are very fortunate to have him on our team".

Since joining the staff of CDI in 2007 Peterson completed all design work and construction administration on the Brookings Downtown Streetscape project. CDI was the sub-consultant to the streetscape's landscape design firm. The many challenges of the downtown revitalization included making sure sidewalk drainage needs for all 60 buildings on Main Avenue were met. Peterson was the primary consultant contact on the project as the owner/architect representative for the contractor.

Other major projects worked on by Peterson include:

Mardian Scrap Industrial Railroad

The Aberdeen project involved installation of a new railroad spur off the Burlington Northern Santa Fe mainline. Peterson dealt with landowner relations and navigated the challenges of an extremely rainy season to complete the project to the client's satisfaction.

Heartland Grain Fuels

Peterson's first project for CDI involved the expansion of an ethanol plant near the SD Wheat Growers elevator in Aberdeen. The project increased the plant's annual production from 10 million to 50 million gallons. A double loop track was designed so the owner could ship a 110-car train while having enough space to house an empty and full train at the same time. Peterson had no prior experience in railroad work before managing the design and construction of the expansion. He also navigated adjacent landowner and county road issues and contractor schedules.

Prior to joining the CDI staff, Peterson worked for a year at a consulting engineering firm in Aberdeen where he specialized in design, technical writing, civil calculations and project coordination.

During the summers of 2004 and 2005, Peterson served as an engineering intern for the City of Brookings.

Peterson graduated with a bachelor's degree in engineering from South Dakota State University in 2005. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Brookings Rotary Club.