

## High School Student becomes USACE Intern

When people think of employees working at the Corps of Engineers, the last thing that comes to mind is a 17-year-old High School Junior. But for Alicia Hogan, working at the Corps is just another “day at the office.”



Nestled away in the Contracting Division of the Omaha District, Hogan’s main job is to train, observe and learn, however, she is asked to help and give her opinions on things,

including sitting in on various “source selection” meetings. But she isn’t immune to the occasional closet cleaning or file cabinet reorganization. “I didn’t even know contracting was a thing when I took the internship,” said Hogan, “But I like it so far and am enjoying what I am doing. I like the challenges that go along with each project.”

According to her supervisor, Major Chris Thomas, “She is not only a joy to work with, but also brings a new perspective to the office and to the Corps. Her attention to detail is

incredible...she's doing work at a level far beyond what we expect from a high school student," added Thomas.

When asked what she wants to do after high school, Hogan says, "I definitely want to go to college, but I am not sure where yet...probably UNO since it is close. Right now I want to gain work experience, learn discipline and be committed to something."

Hogan's mom is a nurse and her father is a police officer and she only learned about the Corps when her sister, then an ROTC student at Creighton, now in the Army, came to her class to discuss options after High School. Her brother is also a police officer like her father.

When asked if she wants to continue working at the Corps after graduation, Hogan said, "I want to study pre-med or pre-dental in college so once I graduate college I don't see where my education would fit in the Corps, but until then I can see myself continuing to work for the Corps, provided I can continue to get internships."

Hogan is the first and only high school student to fill a paid intern position within the Contracting Division of the Omaha District.