

Cara A. Cowan Watts
cara@caracowan.com

P.O. Box 2922
Claremore, OK 74018

918 752-4342 (Cellphone)
918 341-3753 (Fax)

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Appointed to the Will Rogers Memorial Commission for six years by Governor Brad Henry
- Named 2003 Journal Record Top 50 Women Making a Difference
- Successfully assisted in lobbying for an appropriation of \$1.9M in Federal funds to repair and reconfigure the 193rd East Avenue Exit off I-44 in Catoosa, Oklahoma.
- Facilitated cross-deputization agreement with Rogers County Sheriff's office to protect economic development after eight years without an agreement.
- Responsible for providing capacity to support the \$7.8M in revenue associated with the Telmex and WCG Alliance relationship in 2001.
- Project Manager for the San Diego to Tijuana Border Crossing with Williams Communication partners Telefonos de Mexico (TelMex) and Telefonos del Noroeste (TelNor). The project was completed on time and below budget.
- Project Manager for the El Paso Border Crossing Project with Williams Communication partners TelMex and Southwestern Bell Communications (SBC) to create a border crossing between El Paso, TX, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. I entered the project with 2 ½ months to complete and little focused effort on the project. We finished successfully with only 2 weeks delay.
- Coordinated a board change saving \$120,000 per year on an Agilent Technologies' oscilloscope.
- Designed a drop-in replacement for a lifetime buy part at only an additional \$14 per instrument at Hewlett-Packard sustaining a high-end product and keeping repair costs minimal.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CHEROKEE NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL, Claremore, Oklahoma

Aug. 2003-Aug. 2007

Tribal Council Representative, District 7 – Will Rogers (Rogers County, Oklahoma)

- Primary function to initiate and amend legislation which furthers the interests of more than 250,000 Cherokee Nation tribal citizens while serving almost 10,000 constituents in Rogers County.
- Approval and oversight for a budget of approximately \$340M, annually, across all or part of 14 counties in Northeastern Oklahoma affecting more than 140,000 tribal citizens.
 - Identify and solve on-going social problems of Cherokee Nation Tribal Citizens through new programs or policy changes as well as assist individual Cherokees in becoming self-supporting.
 - Identify and build relations with industry representatives to provide jobs and economic development within the Cherokee Nation.
 - Active member of all eight Standing Council Committees; Executive & Finance (E&F), Rules, Resources, Education, Health, Language, History & Cultural (LH&C), Tribal Services/Community Services and Employment Committees.
 - Active member of several Sub-Committees; Election Law Reform – completed December 2005, TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Office) Reform – completed December 2005
 - Coordinate and work with local, county and state entities to provide economic development opportunities, jobs and services to area.
 - Lobby Federal Representatives, Senators and agencies for new programs, additional monies and policy changes.
 - Active member and Vice-Chair (2006-2007)/Chair (2007-Present) of Claremore Indian Health Services (IHS) Hospital Advisory Board.
 - Brought more than \$100,000 in grant dollars to Rogers County.
 - Created the Rogers County Cherokee Association (RCCA), 501c3 non-profit, to provide long-term stability to Rogers County Cherokees and a conduit for additional grant dollars.
 - More than 65 community meetings have been conducted to share information on services, opportunities and best practices.
 - Selected as Oklahoma's Alternate to the IHS Facilities Appropriation Advisory Board (FAAB) in Washington, D.C.
 - Appointed primary delegate representing Oklahoma's IHS area and elected Co-Chair of the American Indian/Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council in the Office of Minority Health at the Department of Health and Human Services.

WILTEL COMMUNICATIONS, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Engineer, International Network Planning & Engineering

Feb. 2002-July 2004

Primary function to plan and assist in implementation all international projects for Mexico, Canada and South America as well as manage customer relationships and technical communication.

- Continue previous job functions as stated below.

Manager, International Network Planning

May 2001-Feb. 2002

Primary function to plan and assist in implementation all international projects for Mexico and South America as well as manage customer relationships and technical communication.

- Determine equipment, fiber, space, power, network architecture for all border crossings and submarine cables from Mexico and South America.
- Primary customers include TelMex, TelNor, UniNet, Telefonica Data and Telefonica Long Distance.
- Equipment experience includes Nortel's TN-16X, Alcatel 1664, Redback and ECI's T::DAX.

Engineer, Fiber Planning

Nov. 2000-May 2001

Primary function to manage all international projects entering the domestic network and the Central fiber routes.

- Plan and manage fiber routes including fiber counts, fiber distribution panels (FDPs), route huts and interconnects between major points of presence (POPs).
- Continue previous job functions as stated below.

Engineer, Technical Facilities Planning

Oct. 1999-Nov. 2000

Primary function to plan domestic facilities for all international border crossings and cable landings on Williams Network.

- Projects include the El Paso Border Crossing, San Diego Border Crossing, TAT14 and China-Japan Cable Landings.
- Issue Engineering Work Requests (EWRs) to Facilities, DC Power and Fiber Services.
- Coordinate plans in cross-functional team (CFT) settings.
- Review contracts for hidden costs and possible implementation problems.
- Facilitate flow of information between the International team and the CFT.

Other tasks have included

- Identifying interim collocate providers and prioritizing interim collocate needs.
- Contributing to the IRU Process Development and Implementation team.
- Contributing to the Interconnect Process Development team.
- Interviewing and recruiting college new hires and experienced hires.
- Establishing recruiting efforts in the Native American community.

HEWLETT-PACKARD, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Jan. 1998-Oct. 1999

Mechanical Engineer; New Product Introduction

Manage the introduction of new oscilloscopes from R & D to production.

- Design production tooling for ergonomics, assembly and electronic test fixtures.
- Design new products and redesign existing products.
- Manage production changes.
- Evaluate production problems to ensure consistent quality.

EDUCATION

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY (OSU), Stillwater, Oklahoma

Expected Dec. 2008

Ph.D. Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY (OSU), Tulsa, Oklahoma

May 2002

M.S. Telecommunications Management

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT COLORADO SPRINGS (UCCS)

Jan. 1998-May 1999

M.S. Electrical Engineering (transferred before obtaining a degree)

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Dec. 1997

B.S. Mechanical Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA, Edmond, Oklahoma

Aug. 1992-May 1994

B.S. Engineering (transferred before obtaining a degree)

INTERNAL HEWLETT-PACKARD COURSES

1998-1999

Behavioral Interviewing
 Ergonomics for Engineers and Designers
 Hewlett-Packard Mechanical Integration Conference (MICON)
 How to Give and Receive Feedback for High Performance Teams
 Conflict Management
 Basic SolidDesigner
 Advanced SolidDesigner
 ME10/ME30 2D Layouts

INTERNAL WILLIAMS & WILTEL COMMUNICATIONS COURSES

1999-2001

The Art of Active Listening
 Basic WCG Network Architecture
 Basic Telecommunications
 Basic ATM 101
 Basic TCP/IP 101
 Basic Frame Relay 101
 Basic SONET 101
 Basic Training
 Basic Top Guns
 Talent Development Process
 Delegating & Empowering
 Interview Training
 TBS Overview
 Bottom-Line Project Management conducted by Project Management Institute (PMI)

CERTIFICATION

ENGINEER IN TRAINING (EIT) EI 10769

Aug. 1998

Passed the Fundamentals of Engineering/EIT Test

SPECIAL CONFERENCE

Indian Telecommunications Training Initiative (ITTI) Sponsored by the FCC
 Minneapolis, Minnesota

2000

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

National AISES

1994-Present

Board of Directors 2001-2005; Board Secretary 2002-2005; Sequoyah (Lifetime) General Member;
 1998 National Conference Local Planning Committee (LPC) Volunteer Committee Chairperson;
 2002 National Conference LPC Chairperson

Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

1999-Present

Founding Member of Tulsa-Northeastern Oklahoma (NEO) Chapter;
 Vice-President NEO Chapter 2001-2002; Professional Member

Tau Beta Pi – The Engineering Honor Society

1998-Present

Member Oklahoma Gamma

Pi Tau Sigma – International Mechanical Engineering Honor Society

1997-Present

Member Oklahoma Lambda

OTHER SKILLS

- Proficient in *MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Project* and *Internet Explorer*
- Past experience with *Lotus Notes, CC Mail* and *Access*
- Working knowledge, proficiency and experience of *2D and 3D CAD systems* (AutoCAD Light, SolidDesigner and more), *basic UNIX commands* and *Visio Technical Drawing software*
- Knowledge of *critical path methods* and other project management techniques