

Cheril Lin D. Abeel

Michigan State University – Industrial Mathematics

Nominated by
Peiru Wu

Current Employer:
On-site at Volkswagen/
Audi of America

Job Title:
Project Manager,
Urban Science

Pursuing a PSM degree was consistent with several of Cheril's personal and career goals. As a graduate of a two-year college, she thought about teaching at a two-year college. Cheril had experienced two-year colleges as being highly pragmatic and thought a degree that would provide experience in applying math would differentiate her from other job candidates and would benefit students. But she also wanted to have the option to work outside of academia. Part of the appeal of the Industrial Mathematics program was the opportunity to take classes in different departments across campus. A traffic flow class in Civil Engineering was a favorite. Even though she has remained outside of academia, Cheril believes that her degree provides the flexibility to do almost anything. She spent three years at the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments as a Transportation Planner and Planning Analyst while also teaching evening algebra classes at Oakland Community College. For the last four years Cheril has been employed by Urban Science, a consulting company headquartered in Detroit with offices worldwide. She mostly works in automotive dealer network analysis to help car companies determine the best number and locations of dealers in ever-changing markets. As a Project Manager, she has moved to Fairfax, Virginia, to work more closely with her main client. Cheril's advice to women is to remember that as your skills increase, so do your opportunities. Both in college and while pursuing your career, this insight will keep you from getting stuck doing something that you do not like or find rewarding – unless it serves some other purpose in your life. And keep in mind that not knowing something now is irrelevant to whether you will know it in the future.