

# THE WOMEN ENGINEERS OF VMASC

*A Social Media Series*



## All about Jen Lindgens

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VMASC is excited to feature Ms. Jennifer “Jen” Lindgens on this week’s Women Engineers of VMASC social media series.

Since Jen’s arrival in January 2020, she has worked on several different projects involving state and federal agencies, from naval simulations to state emergency management programs. As a research associate, Jen says “My role differs from project to project, but if I had to summarize it, I would say I conduct intensive research, data collection, analytic support, quality assurance, and technical writing.”

Jen received her bachelor's degree from High Point University (High Point, NC) where she majored in Mathematics with a minor in Environmental Studies. During her time at High Point, she became a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, and held a leadership position.

Why did Jen choose math as her major? "I believe that math is transferable to an infinite amount of career avenues, solely based on the field's required analytical skills and it is involved in almost every job role, big or small," Jen said. "I also knew that the degree would be beneficial when it came time to choose a master's degree program. However, beyond career objectives, I have always been a very black-and-white person. I simply enjoy the objectivity of math and the feeling you get after spending some time trying to solve a problem and getting it right."

Mathematics and STEM are not her only interests; Jen has a major interest and love for horses. Jen had the opportunity to work on a horse farm. "When I was 13 years old, my parents gifted me my first digital camera. While working at the farm, I began taking photos of all things horse-related," Jen said. "Currently, I own and operate my own equine photography business, which allows me to meet new people with the same passions as me and give them a special memory. It's also a great creative outlet to balance my analytical and logical job at VMASC!"



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For the future, Jen plans to pursue a master's degree in Operations Management. "I would love to pursue a career path as an operations research analyst and eventually work for a national lab, such as Idaho or Sandia National Labs," Jen said.

As more women are entering into STEM careers, we wanted to know what, if any, challenges Jen has dealt with being a woman in the field.

"I've been lucky and haven't been in a situation at work where my gender affected something, but I have dealt with challenges outside the workplace. In my college classes, my male classmates would assume I had nothing to contribute or would ignore something I said since I was one of the few women in the class. I've noticed that people who don't necessarily know what we do at VMASC, will assume I have a more 'traditional' woman's role in the workplace, and not thinking there are other possibilities beyond those roles," Jen said. "Hopefully as the gender gap in the STEM field continues to close, there won't be as much stereotypical thinking and women can enter a male-dominated field with the confidence to make their own marks."