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Nicole Bourassa 2012

August 09, 2012 - Rhode Island

Name: Nicole Bourassa, AICP

Title: Principal Planner

Company: Town of North Kingstown

Location: Rhode Island

Birthplace: Fall River, Massachusetts

Family: Fiancé Chris and 2-year-old daughter Emma

College: UMass Amherst - BS in Environmental Science; Clemson University - Master of City and Regional Planning

First job unrelated to your current field: Lifeguard

First job in current field: Assistant planner in Needham, MA

What your firm does now and its plans for the future? The North Kingstown planning department is responsible for the long and short-range planning for the community. We assist the community in developing its vision for the future through innovative growth management practices.

Hobbies: Home renovation and interior design, reading

Favorite novel: Just finished "The Hunger Games" trilogy

Favorite film: "The Cutting Edge"

Keys to success: Self-education and perseverance. You really have to constantly be learning - whether from a book or just from day-to-day observation - to continue to grow and succeed.

Person you admire most (outside of family): Professionally I would say Jane Jacobs, as she had a fabulous understanding of the need to weave the social characteristics in a community with the built characteristics of a community.

If you had to choose a different profession, what would it be? I would be a psychologist.