

Transcript of Cindy McDonnell, Drilling Engineer

The coolest part about my job is... that I get to organize all the people and equipment that move on and off this rig!

I work out at Sable Island offshore Nova Scotia. I work as a logistics coordinator and a drilling engineer. I coordinate all transfers of personnel and equipment, as well as supporting the supervisors and drilling team to make sure that everything is going according to plan.

Part of my job is to coordinate all logistics, which is to ensure that we have all equipment onboard the rig as well as personnel. So I basically look at a forward plan, figure out what we'll be doing within the next week and make sure that for every single operation we have all the equipment we need and personnel we need, as well as looking at weather which could be a constraint and make sure that we have a contingency plan in place, just in case something were to go wrong. Every single tiny little piece of equipment that comes on board has to be accounted for at cost. It's something I have to do every single day and submit to the people in town before seven o'clock in the morning. It's a constant thing; you've got to be on top of it all day, every day.

My schedule is a three week on, three week off rotation. I fly offshore, I work 12 hours a day, seven days a week. It's difficult because it's hard to be away from all my friends and my family for such long periods of time; however, it's really nice because I work with the same group of people all the time; you are around them 24/7, you get to be really close with those people. As well, it's also very nice to have three weeks off at a time, which makes it—you're really flexible to travel and see the world, which is a lot of what I like to do on my days off.

You do have a lot of responsibilities so it's important to be confident. You also have a lot of support. Where it is a group and team effort, everybody out there is there to do the same thing and they really enjoy having young people to mentor.

If you study drilling engineering there is a lot of opportunity for work all over the world. You can work offshore or you can work onshore doing, kind of, the office part of, of everything, which is neat as well. Some people work in the service industry, so if they go offshore they're specialized in one specific area, and they only come offshore for a shorter period of time—so there's kind of a wide range of opportunities.

If I had any advice for you I would say that if you didn't know what you wanted to do right off the bat, that don't panic; just figure out what it is you like, what it is you like learning about, follow that and as you progress it'll be—you'll be able to figure out what it is you want to do as you go along rather than figuring it out right from the start.