

NEWSMAGAZINE

HARRISBURG  ACADEMY

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THE FAST TRACK:

20 OF
HARRISBURG ACADEMY'S
FASTEST-RISING

YOUNG ALUMNI



DESIREE COOPER '96, AIA

*Project Manager at Little Diversified Architectural Consulting
Arlington, Va.*

"A strong work ethic and the importance of giving back to the community are for certain the key values that I took away from the Academy," said Desiree Cooper '96. "Both have provided me a means by which to accomplish my goals while meeting many wonderful people along the way."

For Desiree, a passion for community service has been alive and well since her time as an Academy student. These days, she uses her talents as an architect to create and manage low-impact building projects for Little Diversified Architectural Consulting in the Washington D.C. metro area. She stays active in a variety of other service activities, ranging from those geared towards supporting inner-city youth (YMCA after-school programs; Big Brothers Big Sisters; Capital Cause; and Millennial Changemakers) to those that positively impact the environment and the future of her industry. Desiree enjoys volunteering for environmental clean-up efforts in the D.C. area and through the Urban Land Institute, mentoring high school students interested in land development careers.

Desiree attended North Carolina State University after graduating from the Academy and earned a bachelor's degree in environmental design in architecture. She also has a master's degree in architecture from Temple University.

According to Desiree, "I'm grateful to be in a position and line of work where I have been able to contribute to the development of low-impact and mixed-use communities. I have been lucky enough to have had the opportunity to participate on a variety of projects that work to bring people of varying economic status and backgrounds together while helping to preserve the environment through sustainable design practices."