



Meet Julie Venables

HSE Director

Fluor Ltd.

BCECA members provide engineering, design, procurement, project management and construction services to the process and energy industries worldwide. Fluor's Julie Venables shares her thoughts on professional development as a health, safety and environmental specialist working in design and engineering.

Fluor was founded in the US in 1912. The company, which now has a presence around the world, opened a London office in 1957. Fluor provides professional and technical solutions for the delivery of world-class engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) projects for global clients from its office in Farnborough, Hampshire.

Do something you enjoy

"We spend over a third of our lives studying and working, so I encourage people to pursue subjects and work activities that they enjoy. My first degree is in environmental science. This led to my first job in the rail industry, working on infrastructure projects in and around London. As I worked, I became more interested in occupational safety and later technical design and its impacts on health, safety and the environment (HSE). I have generally undertaken learning and professional development alongside my work activities to get the most out of 'learning on the job'. It has led me into a career and role that I find engaging and enjoy immensely."

Professional growth

"I have spent most of my professional career working with Fluor. I started as an occupational HSE professional on a telecoms project in Birmingham. A few years later, I joined the technical design HSE team in the Camberley offices. I've worked on diverse projects and had fantastic opportunities to travel overseas. I have applied my engineering design and management skills in telecoms, petrochemicals and refining, pipelines, storage, batteries, offshore wind and much more. I had the opportunity to work in the role of Department Manager. I was responsible for a team of 20+ technical specialists with wide-ranging accountability for the safety of projects delivered worldwide. I feel very privileged that my employer has always supported my professional development; in 2013, Fluor sponsored me to obtain my MSc. in Process Safety and Loss Prevention from Sheffield University. It's a fantastic qualification widely respected in the process safety community. Networking and knowledge sharing are important too, so I'm a regular contributor to the work of BCECA's Design, Safety and Engineering Committee and a member of IOSH and IChemE."

Make a difference

"Today, being in a senior leadership position at Fluor, responsible for HSE is a huge privilege. Currently, I enjoy working on and solving reliability engineering problems. Reliability engineering relates closely to safety engineering and system safety to secure a facility that operates without failure over its entire 'lifetime', thereby protecting lives and the environment whilst optimising the client's assets and revenues. That said, I'm still very active in project leadership roles, and I'm currently the HSE lead on the design for a state-of-the-art laboratory that will manufacture radioisotopes for cancer treatments. I am very grateful and pleased to be involved in a project that has the potential to make such a positive contribution to society. You can make a difference in many ways when you work in the engineering contracting sector, and each project is very different."

For more information about career prospects in the engineering contracting, sector contact BCECA at 10th Floor, Camelford House, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE17TP

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