ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT
Janae Branch
Halliburton

DISCIPLINE
Industrial Engineering

PROJECT FOCUS/SPECIALTY
Continuous Improvement and Lean Manufacturing

MORE INFORMATION
wie@ou.edu
www.ou.edu/coe/wie
orgsync.com – OU Women in Engineering Program
WiE GroupMe

Janae Branch

OVERVIEW The mission of the WiE Alumna Series is to inform and inspire current female students in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Gallogly and Mewbourne colleges through the elucidation of the diversity of opportunity related to positively impacting society through academic and professional pursuits. This WiE Series edition highlights an OU alum, Janae Branch, and features her personal journey.

JOURNEY TO ENGINEERING Janae’s mother and father, a school counselor and retired toll booth operator, gave her broad exposure through various after school activities, summer camps, and schools. From sculpting and playing the piano to fixing computers and building a mouse trap car, she experienced it all. These experiences showed her affinity for STEM. When scouting high schools, her parents encouraged her to attend an engineering-focused high school. Janae learned to code in two languages, use AutoCAD, build architectural models, and solder printed circuit boards. Her parents’ insight and hands-on activities sent her down the path of engineering.

APPLICATION Janae initially selected the Architectural Engineering major and quickly learned Industrial Engineering was a better fit. She enjoys working with stakeholders of a process to understand the details, determine opportunities for improvement through data analysis, and facilitate the execution of action plans. Janae had the opportunity to work in various functions of the company, all with a common theme of process improvement.

QUOTES AND THEIR IMPACT Always remember, everyone puts their pants on the same way...one leg at a time. -Pamela Branch, mother
Janae says, “I understand no one is better than me and I’m no better than anyone; we are equal human beings regardless of race, gender, or thought. I walk into rooms with confidence and know I deserve a seat at the table”.

“No [man] waits for an opportunity; they go after it! Speak up for yourself! -Melissa Vincent, mentor
Janae says, “I advocate for myself by communicating my career aspirations and leveraging my network to prepare for and identify career opportunities”.

“For me, becoming isn’t about arriving somewhere or achieving a certain aim. I see it instead as forward motion, a means of evolving, a way to reach continuously toward a better self. The journey doesn’t end. -Michelle Obama, author of Becoming
Janae says, “I understand that I’ll never be perfect. However, I ask for feedback and do constant self-reflection to determine how I can improve personally and professionally”.