

Eric Taylor, LEED AP BD+C

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In 1997 I graduated from Pauls Valley High School in Oklahoma and subsequently completed a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 2001. After graduation I began working at Tinker Air Force Base near Oklahoma City as a process engineer responsible for the non-destructive inspection of critical jet engine hardware. My daily activities included increasing our inspection capabilities, managing service contracts on equipment, and keeping the people, equipment, and processes running smoothly. After about 5 years in this role, I wanted to shift my focus to developing more traditional mechanical engineering facility design skills. So in early 2006 I transitioned to a facilities engineer position where I worked on industrial equipment installation and facility maintenance/modification regarding mechanical, plumbing, electrical, and structural design projects. Additionally I had the responsibility of Energy Manager for the Maintenance Wing at Tinker AFB, which maintained and repaired numerous aircraft/engines in the Air Force fleet, to include the B-1, B-52, AWACS, KC-135, F-16, F-135, F-119, and others.

A year prior to this transition I married my wife, Melanie, whom I met in the Middle East while there with my church. Both of us have a growing desire to understand and relate to the Arab people and culture. An opportunity came up in mid 2007 that provided an avenue to grow in this area. So I took a short break from engineering while Melanie and I served as volunteer relief workers and English teachers, partnered with a small Baptist church, in a small Lebanese village right near the border of Lebanon and Israel.

After completing a term of 8 months in Lebanon, we returned to the US and I began the process of trying to find a mechanical engineering job focused on facility design. I specifically wanted to stay in the private sector and not return to government work, in order to broaden my experience. In late 2008, that landed me in Kansas working as a mechanical engineer for Black & Veatch, Special Projects Division. My regular duties at Black & Veatch include facility HVAC and plumbing system design and consulting on federal government projects located throughout the US. Project types range from office buildings and training facilities, to gen/chiller plants and data centers. Most of the projects I'm associated with involve LEED criteria requirements and specific government energy and water efficiency performance requirements. Therefore, I became a LEED AP back in March of 2009, and just finished credentialing to a LEED AP BD+C.

Since coming to Kansas we have been blessed with a growing family. Our first son, Wesley, we adopted in March of 2010 when he was just a couple of weeks old. Our second child is on the way, and is due next February. We are now trying to get prepared and roll with all of the changes that a pregnancy brings. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family, hanging out with friends and neighbors, reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction books, working on projects around the house, and participating in outdoor activities ranging from running, hiking, and biking to camping and skiing.