

Influential Women Showcases MaríaAngélica Deeb, PE, PTOE: Regional Director Of Community Development & Infrastructure

PHOENIX, AZ, UNITED STATES, September 1, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Engineering Leader Brings More Than Two Decades of Experience, Innovation, Mentorship, and a People-Centered Approach to Building Resilient Communities

Phoenix, Arizona — MaríaAngélica Deeb, PE, PTOE, RSP1, PTP, ENV SP, is a distinguished transportation and civil engineering leader whose more than two decades of experience have been defined by infrastructure innovation, sustainability, public service, and a commitment to improving the communities that transportation systems and civil infrastructures serve. Originally from Bogotá, Colombia, MaríaAngélica immigrated to the United States in 1995 and went on to establish a

multidisciplinary academic and professional career centered on transportation planning, infrastructure systems, capital improvement programs, and community development.



Since beginning her engineering career in 2000, MaríaAngélica has developed extensive experience working across the public and private sectors. Her career reflects an ability to bring together technical expertise, strategic planning, systems thinking, and ethical leadership to address complex infrastructure challenges. She currently serves as Regional Director of Community Development & Infrastructure (Interim) at Matrix Design Group, Inc., where she oversees engineering operations, project delivery, quality assurance, team leadership, and business development efforts, both in the civil and transportation spaces) throughout the Arizona and western regions.

In her current position, MaríaAngélica works with multidisciplinary teams and collaborates with

agencies, consultants, and community stakeholders to advance resilient, sustainable, and equitable infrastructure and transportation systems. Her work is grounded in the belief that engineering should extend beyond technical performance to consider accessibility, long-term resilience, sustainability, and the quality of life of the people who ultimately depend on the systems being designed.

Before joining Matrix Design Group, MaríaAngélica spent five years with the Arizona Department of Transportation and nearly two decades with the City of Mesa. Across these roles, she played an important part in transportation programming, project coordination, infrastructure planning, and capital improvement efforts. Her experience has allowed her to understand transportation from multiple perspectives while developing solutions designed to improve mobility, connectivity, and community outcomes.

Beyond her professional responsibilities, MaríaAngélica remains deeply engaged in the engineering profession. She serves in leadership roles with organizations including the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Institute of Transportation Engineers, contributing to initiatives involving sustainability, diversity, equity, and inclusion at regional and national levels. As a licensed Professional Engineer across multiple states and holder of several professional certifications, she continues to emphasize the importance of education, collaboration, mentorship, and innovation.

Building Success Through Perseverance and Continuous Learning

MaríaAngélica attributes her success to perseverance, continuous learning, and, above all, never compromising her values. From the beginning of her career, she learned the importance of trusting herself and remaining grounded in strong ethical principles.

She believes that when something does not feel right, professionals should be willing to discuss the situation or recuse themselves rather than participate in something that conflicts with their values. For MaríaAngélica, professional success cannot be separated from integrity.

She also believes engineers must remain willing to learn, improve, and innovate. The profession is constantly changing, whether because industries evolve or because new technologies and tools become available. Professionals who fail to look forward risk being left behind.

Her own journey reflects that philosophy. MaríaAngélica has consistently expanded her knowledge and adapted to changing demands throughout her career, while maintaining a strong commitment to ethical decision-making.

Two mentors played particularly important roles in helping her navigate that journey. Her father, who is also an engineer from Colombia, provided guidance as she built her career in the United States, particularly during difficult periods. His perspective helped her navigate challenges and remain focused on her goals.

Another important mentor was a woman MaríaAngélica worked with shortly after beginning her career at the Department of Transportation. That colleague became an emotional source of support and helped her navigate the processes required to become a Professional Engineer in the United States.

The experience had a lasting impact on MaríaAngélica. It showed her the importance of supporting others and helping people continue moving forward when they might otherwise be tempted to give up.

Trusting Yourself and Never Compromising Your Values

The career advice MaríaAngélica carries with her is closely connected to the lessons she received from her mentors: persevere, continue learning, and never give up.

Her experience as an immigrant building a professional career in the United States taught her that the path would not always be easy. There were difficult days, including moments when people reacted negatively to her accent. Yet the guidance of her father helped her approach those experiences with perspective.

He taught her that there are always different shapes and colors, and that people sometimes say the wrong thing because of ignorance. Rather than allowing those moments to define her, MaríaAngélica used them as opportunities to continue growing and remain focused on what she wanted to accomplish.

Today, she carries those lessons into her mentorship of others, particularly young women entering engineering.

Her message is straightforward: never compromise personal values, trust yourself, and do not be afraid to say no when something conflicts with your principles. At the same time, she encourages young professionals to remain curious and open to continuous learning.

For MaríaAngélica, looking forward is essential. Engineers must understand that technology, tools, sustainability expectations, and the profession itself will continue to evolve. Remaining relevant requires a willingness to learn and innovate throughout an entire career.

She also encourages women to trust their abilities and refuse to allow others to compromise who they are or what they believe in.

Preparing Transportation for a Changing Future

MaríaAngélica believes one of the biggest challenges facing engineering and transportation today is ensuring infrastructure growth keeps pace with evolving demands while maintaining sustainability, resilience, and ethical leadership.

As communities grow and transportation needs change, infrastructure professionals must think

beyond immediate requirements. Decisions made today can influence mobility, accessibility, environmental performance, and quality of life for decades.

At the same time, MaríaAngélica sees significant opportunities for the profession. Innovative transportation solutions, stronger diversity and equity initiatives, and meaningful mentorship can help create a more capable and future-ready engineering workforce.

She believes the next generation of engineers has an important role in shaping safer, more connected, and resilient communities. Through continued education, responsible innovation, and collaboration, professionals can help ensure infrastructure keeps pace with society while remaining grounded in public service.

A Leadership Philosophy Rooted in Integrity and Legacy

Integrity, continuous learning, innovation, and progress are central to MaríaAngélica's professional and personal life. She believes engineering must continually move forward in areas such as sustainability, diversity, equity, and professional development without losing sight of ethical responsibility.

Family is equally important to her. MaríaAngélica feels fortunate that her parents are still alive and live less than a mile away, allowing her to speak with them every day. She also places great value on her relationship with her husband. Even something as simple as spending half an hour together on the sofa talking about their day is meaningful to her because she recognizes that relationships require consistent attention and effort.

Outside of engineering, MaríaAngélica has practiced Aikido for 30 years. Today, she teaches juniors every Saturday and leads adults when senseis are unavailable. The practice provides another way for her to focus on discipline, personal development, and doing her best for herself and others.

Ultimately, MaríaAngélica views leadership through the lens of legacy. She believes that the strongest leaders are not those who simply accomplish things during their own tenure, but those who prepare others to carry the work forward.

Her goal is to ensure that whoever eventually takes her place in a leadership position has the skills and knowledge necessary to continue the work and, ideally, improve upon what came before.

For MaríaAngélica, that is the true measure of lasting impact. By combining technical excellence with integrity, mentorship, innovation, and service, she continues to demonstrate how engineering leadership can extend far beyond infrastructure itself—helping create stronger professionals, more resilient systems, and better communities for generations to come.

Learn More about MaríaAngélica Deeb:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/mariaange-deeb> or through her profile on Matrix Design Group, <https://www.matrixdesigngroup.com/who-we-are/leadership?view=article&id=374&catid=10>

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