



**Meet
Danni,
Our DBU Customer
and Product Engineering Director**

Employee Highlight: Danni Pietsch

How long have you been working in the engineering industry? Could you please describe your role?

I started with Cummins straight out of university, almost 19 years ago (I started when I was 10 years old – joke). I have had 7 different roles during my career. I was based in the USA for 2 years and the last 2 roles have been global roles based out of Melbourne, Australia. In my current role as “Director-DBU Customer and Product Engineering “ I have functional responsibility for approximately 450 Engineers globally, ensuring they have the training, tools and processes they need to do their job effectively. Engineering in the DBU is primarily focused on helping our customers install Cummins Engines correctly so that we can provide a quality product to the end customers. We also design and supply components, in addition to the engine, to assist with the installation of the engine and allow our customers to focus on their final product.

What makes you passionate about working within the engineering industry?

As a child I secretly wanted to be the “crazy inventor” from the cartoons. Being an engineer is almost like being a modern day inventor. Working with customers on new types of machinery and figuring out how we can make the engine and machine do unique things is really exciting. Some of our customers have some really cutting edge ideas about what they want to create, so being involved in those projects is particularly fun. It’s also a bit of a buzz, spotting the various machines you’ve worked on driving down the road, transporting people by rail or sea, or hauling minerals in a mine site.

How do you feel about working in a male-dominated industry?

I grew up in a rural farming community where everyone pitches in during harvest and everyone is equally important to getting the job done, so I was a little naive coming into the corporate workforce. What I have found is, being female can potentially be a blessing or a curse. There are a lot of stereotypes to overcome to begin with and some people are more willing to “give you a go” than others. Whether you like it or not, people will remember you, so you can’t afford to make silly mistakes. However, if you do really well and prove that you know your stuff, people will remember that for a really long time as well.

What has been your greatest achievement during your employment at Cummins?

This is a difficult question to answer. There have been noteworthy projects that I am proud of but all have been in conjunction with talented peers and business partners. I currently feel blessed to be continuing my career with Cummins through my recent promotion to Director, while still working part time and looking after a little one at home. But again this could not have been accomplished without the support of my manager who is willing to work towards win-win solutions for the company and myself, or my wonderful husband who views both domestic duties and career aspirations as a team effort.

What would you say to encourage people to nominate?

As mentioned, there are still a lot of stereotypes in the industry but I think it is getting better. Anything we can do to change the perceptions of both men and women, the easier it will be for more women to pursue their passion in a technical field.



At Cummins South Pacific, we strongly believe in embracing the diverse perspectives of all people and honor with both dignity and respect. For that reason, this year we are again a proud advocate of The 2017 Women in Industry Awards that highlight the exceptional achievements of women working in Australia's mining, engineering, manufacturing, process control and commercial road transport industries.

The program acknowledges pioneering women in their fields who have demonstrated invaluable leadership, innovation and commitment. It also encourages different sectors to embrace diversity, maintain awareness and support the growing talents of inspirational, young women who are driving change in the workforce – eliminating barriers in what can often be male-dominated industries and creating a new pathway for the next generation.

Award categories open for nomination include Social Leader of the Year, Rising Star of the Year, Business Development Manager of the Year, Industry Advocacy Award, Safety Advocacy Award, Mentor of the Year, Excellence in Manufacturing, Excellence in Mining, Excellence in Engineering and Excellence in Road Transport.

Nominations are open to any women working in the industrial sector.

Nominations close: Sunday, 30 April 2017