Intern scores big with scholarship win

Public transportation issues were at the forefront of American Public Transportation Authority’s 2005 International Public Transportation Expo, which took place September 25-28 in Dallas, Texas. This made it the perfect forum to honor students pursuing careers in public transportation, including Yurintzy Estrada, an intern in DMJM Harris’s New York Bridge Department.

Estrada, who works for Chee Lai, P.E. (New York), was awarded the “Parsons Brinckerhoff-Jim Lammie Scholarship” from the American Public Transportation Foundation (APTF). This scholarship is given to students dedicated to pursuing a career in the public transportation industry and includes a $5,000 award.

“Transportation is the backbone of many great cities,” says Estrada. “Thousands of people are dependent on the effectiveness of mass transportation and would be unable to work or live without it.”

Much of Estrada’s interest in public transportation stems from her family history. “One of my biggest concerns is to improve the quality of life for people, such as immigrant families, who may not be able to afford a car and have to endure long commutes just to get to their jobs,” she says.

Estrada will be entering her senior year at the City College of New York this fall, where she is studying civil engineering. She plans to continue on to graduate school and eventually earn her P.E. license.

This is the fourth year in a row that a DMJM Harris intern has won one or more of the national APTF scholarships. Past award winners include Yaye Mah Boye, who now works as a full-time engineer in the New York office.