

no 'girl power' that's linked to my career success, just my own unique personal power. There are many exemplary people in leadership roles here in Yankton. We are good at what we do because of who we are as individuals, XX and XY."

Minnesota State University Moorhead is where Amy earned her undergraduate degree in political science. She went on to Minnesota State University in Mankato to complete her graduate degree in urban planning. Growing up in Ortonville, she and her family lived at Big Stone Lake.

"My parents stressed the importance of working hard and taking pride in all work. My father was a steamfitter, creating, assembling and repairing piping systems. My mother worked as a teacher's aide at the high school. It was important to my parents that my sister and I complete our education and be able to pursue careers. They value education and always reminded us that no one can ever take away what you learn. My parents are also community-minded. They have been role models to us in many ways, encouraging us to serve our community."

Completing a proper education and connecting with a great mentor have been valuable assets in Amy's career advancement.

"Education is an essential and wise investment," Amy says. "When I began my career in government, I was fortunate to secure an internship in Oakdale (MN) where I found a great mentor in Craig Waldron and his staff. There I learned to surround myself with people who are leaders in their respective fields so I could call on them for insight. It's important to maintain those kinds of relationships. They'll benefit you for your entire career."

Getting involved in community organizations is helping Amy learn more about Yankton. She also recommends that women in professional roles seek interaction with others in their field.

*"When people ask me why I wanted this job I always answer, 'Because it's Yankton!' Having the opportunity to do what I love in the place I want to be is a once in a lifetime opportunity,"*

"As City Manager, I belong to a number of organizations where I can interact with peers serving in similar positions in other communities," Amy says. "If you encounter issues, chances are someone else in your field has experienced something comparable and they're usually happy to help by sharing their experience."

Ongoing training and education are also important to career success.

"Practices change and you change, too," Amy says. "Stay abreast of nuances in your trade and refresh your skills to help you continue to reach your goals."

Running and fitness activities such as yoga occupy some of Amy's leisure time. Traveling, volunteering and sharing time with friends are also important to her.

"I see myself as a hard worker and am inherently positive about things," Amy says. "Both these characteristics have served me well in city management. I'm able to make tough decisions when I have to and take risks when I believe they're beneficial to the community I work for. I also maintain my sense of humor and don't take myself too seriously."

■ by Loretta Sorensen

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