



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Deputy Director of Water
Operations Receives Award**

Christina Jones named an Outstanding Young Alumni by UMass Amherst

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce that Christina Jones, Deputy Director of Water Operations at the Commission, has been recognized by the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (UMass Amherst) College of Engineering for her outstanding professional and personal achievements as a recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

This recognition is well deserved and further highlights the dedication, leadership, and innovation Christina brings to the Commission, and the water industry. As Deputy Director of Water Operations Christina plays a critical role in managing the treatment and reliable delivery of drinking water to homes and business throughout the region. She has also been integral in the planning and design of upgrades at the West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant, which will modernize the aging water treatment system (originally built in 1909) and maintain service reliability for the 21st century. Importantly, Christina has managed organizational changes in water operations necessary to keep staff safe while delivering potable water during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Commission congratulates Christina on receiving this award and for being recognized for her accomplishments in the field of engineering and in the water industry,” said Executive Director Joshua Schimmel. “Christina has been an invaluable addition to the Drinking Water Operations team. This is a crucial time in the water industry with a shortage of licensed and qualified personnel. The Commission has been proactive in addressing this concern by establishing outreach and training programs to build the



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water workforce of the future. Fostering the career growth of industry professionals like Christina is essential in safeguarding drinking water treatment and service reliability for the next generation.”

As an alumna of UMass Amherst College of Engineering (Civil & Environmental Engineering '07, MS '09) Christina has been selected as an Outstanding Young Alumni not only for her professional achievements and work in the water sector here in the Pioneer Valley, but also for her work globally with Engineers Without Borders (EWB). She first joined the UMass chapter of EWB while studying at UMass and led a team of students on two trips to Kenya to implement water projects, and for the past five years has served as the EWB UMass chapter auction mentor, working closely with students to run the chapter's annual fundraiser to bring clean drinking water to Kenya.

Prior to joining the Commission in February 2020, Christina worked on water and wastewater projects as a consulting engineer at Tighe & Bond. While employed at Tighe & Bond, Christina assisted the Commission with the completion of important chlorine system improvements and with the preparation of a Risk and Resilience Assessment for the water system to comply with the federal America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. Because of this previous experience with the Commission and extensive knowledge of drinking water regulations, Christina easily transitioned into her new role as Deputy Director of Water Operations and has already made a positive and measurable impact. The Commission looks forward to being a part of her career growth and continuing to build the water workforce of the future.

About the University of Massachusetts Amherst College of Engineering Outstanding Alumni Awards

Each year, the UMass Amherst College of Engineering recognizes [Outstanding Young Alumni](#). The College of Engineering criteria for recipients include emerging leaders of exceptional personal and professional achievement with potential to positively impact UMass, the Commonwealth, the nation and the world.

About the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission



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Established in 1996, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is an independent, public regional utility. The Commission serves 250,000 customers in the lower Pioneer Valley with safe and reliable drinking water and wastewater service. The Commission provides retail drinking water service to Springfield and Ludlow; wholesale drinking water service to Agawam, Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow; and emergency/peak service to Westfield, Southwick, West Springfield, Chicopee, and Wilbraham. The Commission provides retail wastewater service to Springfield and wholesale wastewater service to West Springfield, Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and Ludlow.

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