

HARNESSING WATER FROM THE STORM

Carrie Bristoll-Groll hasn't only built a successful stormwater management business, but she's also created a small pipeline for employing other UWM alumnae.

Bristoll-Groll, who holds a UWM degree in civil engineering, is the principal civil engineer and CEO of Stormwater Solutions Engineering, a firm she founded in 2002. The company designs sustainable stormwater plans that imitate natural water management processes, thus reducing flooding and improving water quality. These include things like combination rain barrels and rain gardens for residences.

The business has grown slowly but steadily since 2002. It now employs 10 people – most of them women and many of them UWM grads. The field of engineering has become more diverse since she started, Bristoll-Groll says, and her office provides a supportive environment. "We're mindful of what it takes to be a professional woman running a household," she says.

Before starting her own business, she worked for the cities of Milwaukee and Brookfield as a stormwater civil engineer. It gave her a solid background in understanding the issues cities and developers face, so once government stormwater regulations came to the fore in the 1990s, her experience was very helpful in getting her business off the ground.

"I had a niche business that focused specifically on those stormwater management issues," Bristoll-Groll says, "and I was determined to implement stormwater solutions with the health of our local environment in mind."



Carrie Bristoll-Groll

A nontraditional student herself, Bristoll-Groll completed college while raising two small children, with a third one joining the family during her time at UWM. Her husband, Tony, was very supportive. "He'd take care of the kids when I had to study or had an exam," she says.

Bristoll-Groll is a founding member of Women of Water, a group of over 100 women in water-related industries who network and perform community service projects. She's also been a technical mentor for Engineers Without Borders and promotes career-related volunteer activity with her staff. 🐾 – Kathy Quirk

at UWM and was the first winner of the School of Education's Love Kindness award in 2017. He was also honored with a Graduate of the Last Decade Award from the Alumni Association in 2018.

Support and volunteers for JK4K come from the community, a network of friends, local foundations and organizations, and his family. "If it wasn't for my parents, I wouldn't be able to do this at all," Carr says. "My parents are definitely my backbone." 🐾 – Kathy Quirk



Jacarrie Carr