



# The Grainger College of Engineering

*2024-2025 Fellowship Recipient*

## Illinois Concrete Industry Graduate Fellowship in Concrete Paving

### Yazmin Martinez

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

Area of Study: Civil Engineering

Research Group: Illinois Center for Transportation

### Thank You!

I am incredibly thankful to have received this support as it has allowed me to pursue my degree, something I never thought would be possible so soon after receiving my bachelor's degree. As a first-generation student, my education heavily relies on scholarships, which have allowed me to continue learning while freeing up more time for my family. My fellowship has allowed me to participate in research related to my field of focus, much of which is not covered in a typical course. Through this experience, I have further developed my critical thinking and communication skills. Additionally, the fellowship has allowed me to engage in extracurricular activities, such as being a pen pal to middle schoolers. This program helps me share my journey and the many opportunities available through Grainger with younger generations. I have truly enjoyed my experience at Grainger! Every day I learn so much from the knowledgeable faculty and I am excited about what my future classes will have in store.

Sincerely,  
Yazmin Martinez

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, 2024, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

### Why did you want to be a Grainger Engineer?

I became an engineer because I wanted to have a direct impact on my community by creating efficient designs. Within Civil Engineering, I chose Transportation Engineering because I have always been amazed by large infrastructure systems with the capacity to move hundreds of people daily. Having received my bachelors degree from the University of Illinois, I know how passionate the professors are about both the courses they teach and the research they conduct. This passion makes learning much more engaging and encourages students to apply the concepts to real-world challenges.

### Tell us about your research activities and focus area.

In my research, I conduct literature reviews to identify the most effective models for airfield pavement modeling, which will be integrated into design software. Additionally, I assist my teammates in running and analyzing the data generated by the software. When large samples need to be assembled, I help my teammates prepare aggregate tests and then disassemble them once the test is complete.

### What do you want to do after you graduate?

After I graduate, I want to focus on the geometric and structural design of pavements. My dream job is to work at a company where I can work in both types of design while also having the opportunity to inspire younger individuals to pursue careers in Transportation Engineering.

