

Describe how you have balanced your career and personal life. Were there any corporate or professional programs that helped you advance both personally and professionally? Is there anything you wish you had known “then” or could have done differently?

Since I have only been with IBM for three years, I’m trying to watch how more experienced team members, particularly executive women with families, balance their work and their personal lives. I have found that I spent a significant amount of time and work because I enjoy my job, because my job is challenging, and because my department has almost become my second family. I try to give my team a lot of personalized attention, and that can be time-consuming with a large department.

Are there further experiences or insight that you would like to share?

I believe programs that introduce students to technology and engineering are very important because many students, particularly if their parents are not engineers, do not know what engineering really is or what engineers do for a living. If these students are to become the engineers of tomorrow, the engineers of today need to reach out and get students excited about technical careers. A key focus group for this initiative is middle school students, particularly girls. Reaching this age group is vital because it is at this age when students start formulating ideas about what they can and cannot do, and sharing the fun, cutting-edge aspects of technology with these students will help them see that technical careers are rewarding and exciting. Because of my passion for sharing the great aspects of technical careers with area students, I became involved with the IBM National Engineers Week initiative. In 2003, I was the Poughkeepsie site chair for National Engineers Week. In 2003, over 450 IBMers from Poughkeepsie and East Fishkill visited schools, did classroom experiments, hosted field trips, etc. to reach over 22,500 students in the Mid-Hudson Valley. National Engineers Week is a tremendous and meaningful experience, and I look forward to continuing with this program for years to come.