

Briefly describe your early experiences with science and/or technology.

I really enjoyed my math and chemistry classes, especially in high school. Fortunately, I was able to develop a wide variety of analytical and experimental skills in my chemistry classes and laboratories.

When did you know you wanted to be an engineer/scientist? How old were you?

I made my final decision to go into engineering during my senior year in high school. I was eighteen at the time.

Did your family and/or teachers provide encouragement? If so, how?

My high school teachers really encouraged me to go into engineering. They made sure I stayed challenged and involved in the more advanced courses (e.g. advanced chemistry and advanced calculus). Their enthusiasm and dedication motivated me to pursue an advanced degree.

Have you had a mentor at any time during your career or life? What role did s/he play?

I have had several mentors throughout my career. My high school teachers provided advice on career opportunities and personal development. I had several professors at University of Puerto Rico who described their experiences in graduate school and provided recommendations on career opportunities.