

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

My parents bought a computer for the home when I was under the age of ten. It was through using our home computer that I developed a comfort level with technology. Aside from projects in school, my other experience with technology was taking a BASIC programming language course for kids.

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

I decided to become an engineer after taking a physics course in high school. I was 16 years old.

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

My mother is a high school math teacher and my dad is a high school science teacher so there was a strong focus on education as I was growing up. My parents always told me that I was capable of having any career that I wanted.

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

I've had many mentors throughout my life. These include teachers in high school and college, as well as other professionals in the technology industry. I find that each individual has a variety of experiences to share and I've gained insights that I could apply to my own situation. I've utilized these mentors to discuss challenging problems, career development opportunities, work / life balance, etc.