

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

My family was very outdoor and scientifically oriented. Since my father is also an engineer, we grew up visiting science museums, discussing science as we hiked, fished and camped. My high school science teachers – all of them -- had a profound impact on my desire, excitement and motivation to pursue a career in the sciences. A fundamental plus was that I was a high achiever and did well in my math and science classes, which was a huge motivating force.

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

There was no “moment” -- just a continuous tendency towards the math and science focus in junior high and high school, which lead to a decision at graduation to pursue an applied science degree.

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

Absolutely, as mentioned my father was very encouraging for me to pursue an advanced degree in the applied sciences, since this too was his career choice. My teachers were primary in motivation, both in high school and within college as I began to excel in studies. (Sitting in the front row of every class also helped their awareness of my dedication and drive.) My high school instructors provided extraordinary opportunities for me to participate in education-advancing projects. During high school, I conducted a study at a nuclear reactor, which was such an honor and very motivating.

Have you had a mentor at anytime during your career or life? What role did he or she play?

Early in my career at IBM I did have a mentor who was primary in instructing me in some of the technical applications of printing technology and more importantly illustrated to me that an attitude of “we will eventually succeed and overcome ” were very important lessons learned early on.