

Susan Pinzon

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“Find the people who believe in you and want you to succeed. Then as you move along the path, find people that you can support and lift up as well.”



1. Tell us about yourself and your role at AMD.

I grew up in Chicago, IL and moved to Austin 21 years ago when I graduated from college. I was recruited and hired to work in the Semiconductor industry as a Manufacturing Process Engineer, which means I worked in the factory where microchips are made. As I advanced in my career, I focused on statistical analysis and process improvement. In 2016 I joined AMD and am currently a Program Manager in the Quality organization. As my career grew, so did my family; my husband and I have four children ages 10-16.

2. What hobbies did you have growing up?

My childhood hobbies were board games and playing the trumpet, and I also liked arts and craft projects.

3. What was your school major and why did you choose it?

In college I majored in Physics with a minor in Math. I chose Physics because it was my favorite science class in high school, and I loved solving difficult problems. My high school physics teacher inspired us with the phrase “Physics is Phun!” and it left a big impression on me. The summer before my senior year of college, I had an internship in a Materials Science laboratory. I was fascinated to learn about metals, crystals, and semiconductor materials. I decided to pursue a Master's degree in Materials Science Engineering. I was amazed at how microchips were made, and how the scientists and engineers created such tiny structures. When I graduated, I started my career in semiconductor manufacturing.



4. What has been your biggest challenge and how do you overcome hurdles?

There have been many challenges along the way, as a student and working as an engineer. It's hard to pick the biggest! What I have learned is that having supporters is very important, whether it is family, friends, coworkers, teachers, or mentors. Find the people who believe in you and want you to succeed. Then as you move along the path, find people that you can support and lift up as well.

5. What advice would you like to give students who want to pursue a career in STEM?

STEM is exciting but also very challenging. The courses in college are hard and demanding, but don't give up because the hard work will pay off when you graduate. The best way to get through it is to find homework partners and study groups. Learn to ask for help and get advice from teachers and older students. Research all of the various types of engineering and the different kinds of engineering jobs; there is something for everyone.