

Suzanne Plummer

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

I am the Corporate Vice President of SOC Design and Architecture for the Radeon Technologies Group at AMD. My team designs and delivers all of the discrete graphics products and Machine Intelligence GPUs for AMD. I have teams in Canada, China, and various locations in the US.

2. What hobbies did you have growing up?

Growing up, I was a big reader. My parents had to force me to go outside and play because I would always prefer to be reading a book! I also took piano and oboe lessons and was part of the marching band in high school.

3. When did you know you wanted to go into STEM and what inspired you?

I decided to go into engineering when I was applying for college and for college scholarships. I sat down with my parents (Dad - an Organic Chemistry Professor and Mom - a Math and Physics professor) and discussed what I enjoyed, and they suggested that I study engineering. While I was in school, I did internships in engineering fields and enjoyed the jobs.

4. What does engineering mean to you?

Engineering means problem solving. I love to do crossword puzzles and brain teasers. Engineering is like a huge brain teaser. You have to figure out the best answer among a series of possibilities.

5. What do you like about being an engineer at AMD?

AMD is a very exciting place to work right now. We are continuing to grow and expand into new areas and add people to our teams all the time. This means that everyone who works here and does a good job has new opportunities available to them. You can grow deeper in your technical knowledge in a particular area and become an expert or you can take on an expanded role in leadership.

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

One of my biggest challenges has been figuring out how to be a mother and maintain my career. AMD has certainly afforded me plenty of flexibility to figure that out, but I always felt that tug to spend more time with my sons. It is definitely a personal issue that impacts everyone differently. There were many times that I wanted to stop working and stay home with my children. In the end, I am happy with the choices I made and how things have worked out for both my career and my family.

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

STEM is such a great career choice if you have the mindset and aptitude for it. The jobs are in high demand, so you have plenty of choices and flexibility that you might not have in other professions.