Aly Garcia

Product Development Engineer

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

I am a recent college grad from the University of Florida. The degree I completed was Materials Science and Engineering, with a specialization in semiconductor materials. My role at AMD is to manage the yield for our products. This means I have to monitor and conduct analysis to show how much product we are losing to certain defects, how to improve our throughput with the given material we have, and report out to managers and my fellow teammates whether we are hitting our goal or not.

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

I initially was on track to follow the law path because my father was a lawyer in our home country, Colombia. Coming from an immigrant background medicine and law were the most ideal career paths. Up

until my junior year of high school, I had no real exposure to the world of engineering. One day after school my science teacher pulled me aside to ask me what my plans were after college. I told her I wanted to do patent law, and she was shocked that I did not want to pursue engineering since I was good at math and science. She told me success stories of her own daughter who had just graduated college with an engineering degree. That night I was researching what an engineering degree was, and how I could somehow tie that in with my goal at the time to pursue patent law. Oddly enough, a lot of patent lawyers had degrees in materials engineering. When it came time to apply to college, I decided engineering was the best choice since it played more to my strengths.

3. What does engineering mean to you?

Engineering means that you can tackle any problem, no matter the subject. Because that is what engineers are, we are problem solvers.

4. What do you like about working in semiconductors?

I love how semiconductors caters to my need to understand processes on a nanoscale level, for example how millions of transistors are in one chip. But I also enjoy the practical application of semiconductors on a non-nanoscale level. For example, those millions of transistors make up an AMD chip, that we use in our computers.

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

My biggest challenge is giving myself credit for my accomplishments. I overcome hurdles by talking to likeminded engineers when I get stuck. Knowing when to ask for help is so important.