

Denise Friesenhahn

Quality Engineering Director

"My best advice is the same as I tell my kids – 'You can do it!'. School teaches you how to learn. STEM will help you with many skills that are transferrable and allow you to move from project to project. Once you enter the working world, you will find your passion and can help change the world."



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

Hi! I'm Denise Hempel and I am a Quality Engineering Director for AMD. I am the Chief of Staff for the Quality and Reliability team and responsible for preparing many team executive updates and communication within the team. I also get to work with many of our other teams as a Product Line Quality Director as we bring up some new strategic products/customers. I love being a team player and seeing AMD's business achieve higher quality every year.

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

The word 'STEM' wasn't as popular when I grew up. I knew I liked Math and Science and was really good at solving problems. I was always interested in how things worked. I remember my first phone was a see-through phone where you could see all the wires inside and I thought it was one of the coolest things.



3. What does engineering mean to you?

For me, engineering is a way of using strategic processes to design and build a new innovative product while utilizing problem solving techniques and continuously improving on your actions. It is a way to make the future better than it is today.

4. What do you like about working in semiconductors?

I love working in semiconductors because I can see how my work can directly changes our lives. We design and develop amazing devices used in medical equipment to identify medical issues, improve digital signage, and today many children are using computers powered by AMD to enable their education growth and servers to store all of our important data.

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

I love AMD because we are extremely innovative and have leading-edge competitive solutions. I have worked at AMD for 20 years and have seen many ups and downs. We continue to focus on our people and have amazing cross-functional teamwork that enables us to work together to push for a solution to every problem. Being an engineer at AMD, I can directly see how my work is helping to deliver high quality products to delight our customers and change the user experience with new technology.

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

My best advice is the same as I tell my kids – ‘You can do it!’. School teaches you how to learn. STEM will help you with many skills that are transferrable and allow you to move from project to project. Once you enter the working world, you will find your passion and can help change the world. A career in STEM will offer you a wide variety of opportunities that allow you to leverage your creativity and have job security post-graduation. A STEM background gives you the foundation to tackle future challenges and work on cutting edge solutions.