

STEM SPOTLIGHT

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Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering
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Q: How did you select your college major?

A: I would like to have a more inspiring story, but honestly, I was good in math and science, and I wanted a major that would be relatively high paying when I graduated from college.

Q: What was the biggest influence in your selection of major/career?

A: I liked the fact that Chemical Engineering (ChE) did not lock me into a particular field. Prior to selecting Buckman, I interviewed with

Procter & Gamble in the cosmetics group and with L'Oreal

hair care. I chose a company that is involved in the paper, leather, and water treatment industries. In addition, ChE offers an excellent foundation on which to build any career, i.e. my best friend in college used his ChE degree to enter medical school at Penn.

Q: If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

A: Writing is an art. Those who can write and communicate clearly have a distinct advantage in the real world. I would have made better choices in English and Language classes then, given what I know now.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A: At this point in my career, I get the most satisfaction out of mentoring and coaching my group, and watching individuals grow and succeed.



Q: How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?

A: The Sustainability effort at Buckman is focused on the environment, community involvement, green chemistry, fiscal responsibility, diversity, and safety. Our environmental goals are globally centered on conserving water, cleaning the air, and reducing environmental risk. Our philanthropic activities are centered on education, healthcare, and employment. Locally, you will find Buckman associates donating time and money to the children in our schools, environmental activities, and to the United Way. As an associate, it is easy to be proud of Buckman locally and globally for their dedication to sustainability.

Q: What's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your professional career?

A: I have taken a unique path with the same company since my graduation from Penn State. I started with Buckman in Ohio as a sales rep for the Paper division, where I sold and serviced paper mill applications for three years. I then was offered a position in a newly formed Product Management group in Memphis, TN. After 7 years and a new baby, the travel became too much and I needed to make a change. I interviewed for a position in our Procurement group, and was offered the role of Supplier Manager. During this tenure, I received my C.P.M (Certified Purchasing Manager) through the Institute of Supply Chain Management. In 2007, the Customer Service Manager position was available, and because I felt strongly about enhancing the value of our Customer Service group, I applied for the position and was offered the role. In 2010, I was promoted to the Director of Customer Supply Chain, which includes Customer



Service, Logistics, and Inventory Planning. I have been very fortunate to learn the business from many different roles at Buckman.

Q: What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

A: I am proud to be an engineer using an engineering degree in a non-engineering role. Each morning, I wake up just to see what we can accomplish!

Q: What advice would you like to share with K-12 students who are considering your profession?

A: Regardless of how you use your engineering degree, no one can ever take it from you. The strong foundation of mathematics and science on which engineering is built will help you make decisions, evaluate situations and analyze results. Plus it is fun to watch the reaction when you tell people you are a Chemical Engineer. Not all engineers wear pocket protectors. ;-)

