

# STEM SPOTLIGHT

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**Q: How did you select your college major?**

**A:** The first major I chose was the wrong fit for me, but I was able to recognize it after a semester and swapped my major from computer science to engineering management. Computer science was not a bad major, I just knew that I wanted to be out in the field working with large equipment and systems.

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

**A:** I would have to say that my desire to understand how the world worked was the biggest influence. As a kid I always wanted to understand how things worked. If I received a toy the first thing I did was turn it over and ask for a screwdriver to take it apart. With that being said, the foundational engineering courses held a lot of appeal for me. Physics, math, chemistry - they are all keys to understanding how everything works, and I loved the way that engineering put them to practical application.

**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:** I would take a business course. Science and math came easy to me and it took me a couple years in college to really start making the

connection to business economics and management.

Some early business perspective in high school likely would have changed the way I viewed those early engineering courses.

**Q: What is your favorite aspect of your job?**

**A:** My favorite aspect is the people. At all levels of our organization, I believe we have an amazing group of individuals working together to make International Paper the best it can be. It is hard to state how valuable it is to be part of a company that does the right things, for the right reasons, from top to bottom.

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

**A:** International Paper has a positive impact on society and our communities by conducting business with manufacturing excellence and the highest level of integrity. Manufacturing is an enormous economic engine and I am proud to be part of a company that employs outstanding people, who manufacture the best products, while being a good steward of the environment and a positive member of the communities where we operate.



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

**A:** The most interesting thing would have to be working with people from all over the world. In a single day I may interact with people on three continents living in very different cultures. It is wonderful to find how much common ground we share and how we can work together to achieve our goals. Traveling abroad has broadened my perspective and reshaped the way I view the world.

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

**A:** My excitement comes from the opportunities. Every day I have a new opportunity to make International Paper better in some way. Whether it is building relationships, developing myself and others, driving improvements or implementing change, I feel a tremendous sense of reward from capitalizing on the opportunities that my career presents.

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

**A:** Rise to challenges and do not be discouraged by failure. Sometimes school can be difficult and it is easy to look to other paths that seem less daunting. Take the leap to pursue science, technology, engineering and math, and that leap will open doors to an amazing number of opportunities.