Jackie Perez

City Outreach Officer
U.S. Navy

Education Background:
B.S. Environmental Engineering
Minor in Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Science
- MIT (class of 2008)
M.F.A. TV and Screenwriting
- Stephens College (class of 2017)

Current Job Tasks:
As the Navy's City Outreach Officer for the West Coast, I get to talk with students and community leaders about different STEM career opportunities the Navy has and help the public understand what it means to serve in a 21st century Navy.

My background in the Navy is in nuclear power where I served onboard an aircraft career. I operated and helped maintain two nuclear reactors and oversaw a team responsible for reactor safety instrumentation and rod control.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
Everyday I get to meet students who are interested and excited about STEM and have the world at their fingertips. I get to help them discover ways to achieve their goals and expose them to careers they might have never thought of.

When I was working in Nuclear power, my favorite thing was becoming an expert in a field and the confidence that came with that. All the lessons I've learned in the Navy have served me well in everything else I do.

Piece of Advice:
Nuclear power in the Navy is a little bit of everything: chemistry, physics, heat transfer, material science, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering. Whatever field you choose, be sure to always stay curious.
Bill Schepergerdes
Senior Lead Project Engineer
Shur-Lok Company

Education Background:
BSME from UC Davis
MBA from UC Irvine
Registered California PE (Professional Engineer)

Current Job Tasks:
Design and manage new products from conception through production. Provide customer and in-house manufacturing support.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
Creativity, variety, problem-solving, and working with customers.

Piece of Advice:
Do what you like and like what you do. Don't take a job for the money and don't let anyone tell you what kind of job you should take. Know yourself. Whether you like a small dynamic environment or a large slow environment, choose the one in which you feel the most comfortable.

James Gary
Senior Software Engineer
SendGrid

Education Background:
Bachelor's in Informatics, UCI 2008

Current Job Tasks:
I'm a front end software engineer, so I mostly develop JavaScript web apps, implement visual mockups, and collaborate with other teams to build full-stack solutions.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
Working with smart, humble, fun people.

Piece of Advice:
Build stuff! Reading will only get you so far; the best way to learn is to do.
Scott Sornbutnark
Talent Acquisition Manager
Volt Workforce Solutions

Education Background:
Bachelors in Social Science with emphasis in Psychology and Minor in Business Management

Current Job Tasks:
I am the Engineering Talent Acquisition Manager. My job is to find great engineers for my clients.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
Working with all the different companies, industries and emerging technology. I get to see a lot of cutting edge things that I am very excited about.

Piece of Advice:
I would tell Engineers to look at your careers in stages. You may not get your ideal job right away but you can always work toward that goal, don’t be too picky right away always be open to different possibilities. If not you may be left still looking for work 6 months to a year after graduation.