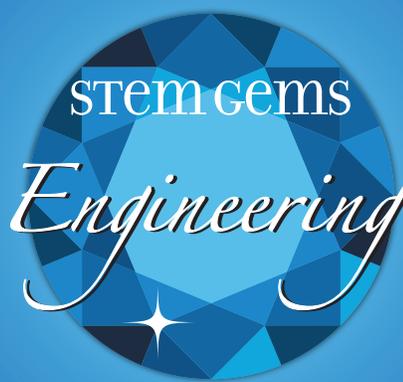


STEM Gem Career:
CHEMICAL ENGINEER

STEM Gem:
PAULA HAMMOND

“Some will be surprised to see you at the table but you can’t allow that to intimidate you. Turn it into an opportunity to engage and instruct. Prove them wrong.”



Is a career in Chemical Engineering in your future? STEM Gem Paula Hammond creates chemical compounds called polymers to battle cancerous tumors, protect soldiers on the battlefield, and even harness energy. Read her story and digest. Watch one of her videos. Then, with your STEM Gems Tribe, **discuss, explore, reflect,** and **act.**

DISCUSS

1. How do Chemical Engineers like Professor Hammond make a difference in the world?
2. What experiences did Professor Hammond have that led to her pursuit of a career as a Chemical Engineer?
3. What is Professor Hammond’s educational background?
4. What are some of the challenges that Professor Hammond faced along her journey?
5. What are some of Professor Hammond’s key accomplishments?
6. What inspired you most about Professor Hammond’s story?
7. Professor Hammond says: *“Some will be surprised to see you at the table but you can’t allow that to intimidate you. Turn it into an opportunity to engage and instruct. Prove them wrong.”* What does her advice mean to you?

EXPLORE

1. To pursue a career as a Chemical Engineer, what college majors should you consider? What colleges and universities have programs in these areas?
2. What companies hire Chemical Engineers? What is the salary range for a Chemical Engineer?
3. What classes should you take in middle and high school to prepare for college and a career as a Chemical Engineer?
4. Name at least two other women Chemical Engineers. How are they similar to Professor Hammond? How are they different?
5. What professional organizations support women in Chemical Engineering? Do they have programs available for middle and high school students?

REFLECT

Professor Hammond says that difficulty is a fact of life and of work. Accept it. Then you can move on and conquer the world. Is it surprising to hear a STEM Gem say this? Knowing that things will get difficult at some point, how will you prepare yourself to take on the challenge and conquer it?

ACT

It's time to step outside your comfort zone. Name one concrete thing you will do before your next meeting that will have you one step closer to becoming a STEM Gem. Blog about it. Include it in your written or photo journal. Hold yourself accountable.

Work hard. Be brave. Stay curious.

BE A GEM!

Stephanie Espy

P.S. I'd love to hear about your journey. Share on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram and tag @STEMGemsBook #STEMGemsTribe, or email me at tribe@STEMGemsBook.com.