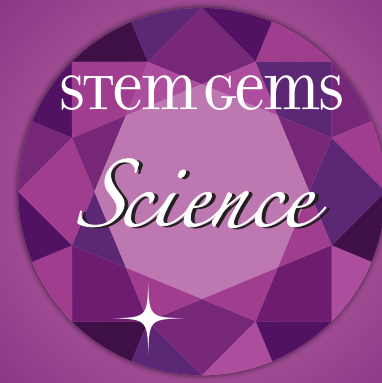


## STEM Gem Career: NETWORK SCIENTIST

STEM Gem:  
JENNIFER CHAYES

*"If you're going to be a scientist,  
you have to challenge the norm."*



Is a career in Network Science in your future? Wait, what is Network Science anyway? STEM Gem Jennifer Chayes is making strides every day in this field – and changing the world. Read her story and digest. Even consider watching one of her many online videos. Then, with your STEM Gems Tribe, **discuss, explore, reflect,** and **act.**

### DISCUSS

1. How do Network Scientists make a difference in the world?
2. What experiences did Dr. Chayes have that led to her pursuit of a career as a Network Scientist?
3. What is Dr. Chayes' educational background?
4. What are some of the challenges that Dr. Chayes faced?
5. What are some of Dr. Chayes' key accomplishments?
6. What inspired you most about Dr. Chayes' story?
7. Dr. Chayes says: *"If you're going to be a scientist, you have to challenge the norm."* What does this mean to you?

## EXPLORE

1. To pursue a career as a Network Scientist, what college majors should you consider?
2. What colleges and universities have programs in these areas?
3. What is the salary range for a Network Scientist?
4. What classes should you take in middle and high school to prepare for college and a career as a Network Scientist?
5. Name at least two other women Network Scientists. How are they similar to Dr. Chayes? How are they different?
6. What professional organizations support women in Network Science? Do they have programs established for middle and high school students?

## REFLECT

Dr. Chayes was bored in school; she didn't feel challenged enough in the classroom so she started teaching math to her peers. Have you ever felt bored or distracted in your classes? Like Dr. Chayes, you may benefit from an added challenge. What are some things you can do to stay challenged and engaged?

## 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](mailto:tribe@STEMGemsBook.com).