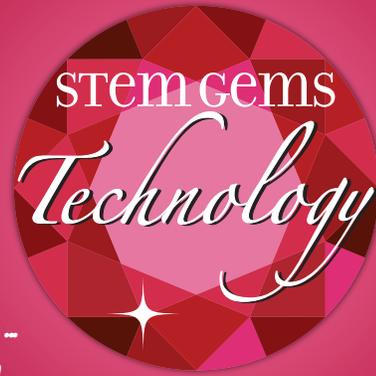


STEM Gem Career:
ANIMATION TECHNOLOGIST

STEM Gem:
PILAR MOLINA LOPEZ

“Find out what you want, work hard for it and be patient. Hard work is essential. You will find mentors .. Ask them for help and advice. Surround yourself with people who are better than you are.”



Is a career as an Animation Technologist in your future? Do the special effects in animated movies and videos excite you? STEM Gem Pilar Molina Lopez is a face of modern animation. Her many projects, including the 2016 blockbuster *Zootopia*, have delighted audiences nationwide. Read her story and digest. Consider watching one of her videos. Then, with your STEM Gems Tribe, **discuss, explore, reflect,** and **act.**

DISCUSS

1. How do Animation Technologists like Ms. Molina Lopez make a difference in the world?
2. What experiences did Ms. Molina Lopez have that led to her pursuit of a career as a Animation Technologist?
3. What is Ms. Molina Lopez’s educational background?
4. What are some of the challenges that Ms. Molina Lopez faced along her journey?
5. What are some of Ms. Molina Lopez’s key accomplishments?
6. What inspired you most about Ms. Molina Lopez’s story?
7. Ms. Molina Lopez says: *“Find out what you want, work hard for it and be patient. Hard work is essential. You will find mentors... Ask them for help and advice. Surround yourself with people who are better than you are.”* How does her advice resonate with you?

EXPLORE

1. To pursue a career as an Animation Technologist, what college majors should you consider? What colleges and universities have programs in these areas?
2. What companies hire Animation Technologists? What is the salary range for an Animation Technologist?
3. What classes should you take in middle and high school to prepare for college and a career as an Animation Technologist?
4. Name at least two other women Animation Technologists. How are they similar to Ms. Molina Lopez? How are they different?
5. What professional organizations support women in Animation Technology? Do they have programs and opportunities available for middle and high school students?

REFLECT

Ms. Molina Lopez passes along the best advice she was given as a student: Never give up. She stresses the importance of hard work and patience. Yes, even people you may think are super smart have to work hard too. Hard work is essential. What can you do to build a stronger work ethic today and for your future self?

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.