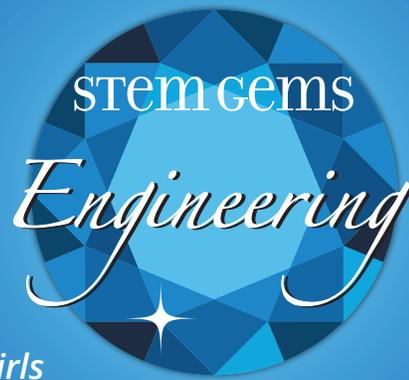


STEM Gem Career:
**PRODUCT DESIGNER AND
MECHANICAL ENGINEER**

STEM Gem:
DEBBIE STERLING

*“Whether it’s in Mechanical Engineering 101
in college or in their third-grade science class, girls
should never question their value, ability, or contribution.”*



Is a career as a Product Designer and Mechanical Engineer in your future? STEM Gem Debbie Sterling has created an enterprise to Get Girls Building. As CEO of GoldieBlox, an award-winning line of engineering toys with construction sets and action figures, Ms. Sterling is teaching girls to take risks and never give up. Watch one of her videos. Then, with your STEM Gems Tribe, **discuss, explore, reflect,** and **act.**

DISCUSS

1. How do Product Designers and Mechanical Engineers like Ms. Sterling make a difference in the world?
2. What experiences did Ms. Sterling have that led to her pursuit of a career as a Product Designer and Mechanical Engineer?
3. What is Ms. Sterling’s educational background?
4. What are some of the challenges that Ms. Sterling faced along her journey?
5. What are some of Ms. Sterling’s key accomplishments?
6. What inspired you most about Ms. Sterling’s story?
7. Ms. Sterling says: *“Whether it’s in Mechanical Engineering 101 in college or in their third-grade science class, girls should never question their value, ability, or contribution.”* Why is this important for you now and for your future self?

EXPLORE

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

REFLECT

Ms. Sterling says: "Take risks. Don't give up. Failure is okay." Reflect on your ability to take risks. To work hard and never give up. To accept failure as a learning experience, then pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and move on.

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.