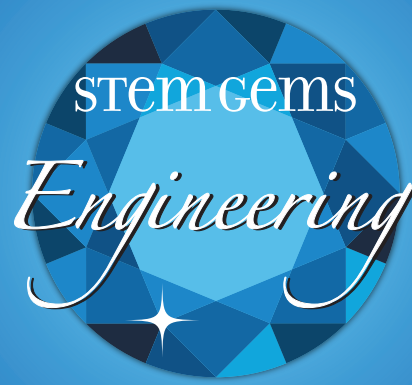


STEM Gem Career: SOCIAL ROBOTICS ENGINEER

STEM Gem:
CYNTHIA BREAZEAL

*"I would much rather build something
and interact with it that philosophize
about it."*



Is a career in Social Robotics Engineering in your future? STEM Gem Cynthia Breazeal imagines a world where robots develop social intelligence by interacting with humans and evolve into thinking, feeling companions – similar to the R2-D2 and C3-PO robot characters of *Star Wars*. 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 Social Robotics Engineers like Professor Breazeal make a difference in the world?
2. What experiences did Professor Breazeal have that led to her pursuit of a career as a Social Robotics Engineer?
3. What is Professor Breazeal's educational background?
4. What are some of the challenges that Professor Breazeal faced along her journey?
5. What are some of Professor Breazeal's key accomplishments?
6. What inspired you most about Professor Breazeal's story?
7. Professor Breazeal says: *"I would much rather build something and interact with it than philosophize about it."* What does this mean to you?

EXPLORE

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

REFLECT

Professor Breazeal says that if you want to do robotics, you can't shy away from traditional math and science courses. She serves as a judge in the FIRST Robotics Competition and believes programs like this one are hugely beneficial. What math and science enrichment programs do you participate in regularly?

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.