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I graduated from The University of Akron in 2012 with my Bachelor's of Science in Chemical Engineering. I am currently pursuing my MBA and hope to complete it in a year and a half.

What led you to a career in the field of engineering?

My decision to become an engineer was based not only my love of math, science, and problem solving, but also in the knowledge that engineers are fully equipped to be employed in any job position they desire. The desire to have options upon graduation really motivated me to get my engineering degree.

What are some of the factors that have contributed to your success?

What I believe has contributed to my success thus far is not being afraid to fail and using those failures to learn and move forward. I also believe to be successful, you need to identify what you love and make that part of your life (both in your work and in your personal life).

What advice would you give to underrepresented engineering students/young professionals?

Advice I would give to young professionals is to make your voice heard. Set clear goals for things that you really want to achieve and make sure those around you that can help you achieve them know what those goals are. Don't be afraid to speak up in meetings and question what is being presented. Speak to people outside your classes and departments and build a network of friends and colleagues that fill in knowledge gaps you have. This will allow you to always be able to find the answers to questions, even if it is outside your area. My final piece of advice is to never stop learning. The possibilities for an engineer are endless and constantly learning new things open up doors in which you may find your passion and happiness behind.

Anything else you would like to add about your work, interests and family.

On a more personal note, I am currently employed as a Development Engineer at Bridgestone America's Technical Center in Akron, Ohio. I develop commercial truck and bus tires. I have been in my current role for two years. I am married with three girls, 2 step children, and a 2 year old granddaughter. I spend my free time either traveling with my 17 year old to softball tournaments or with my 13 year old helping her to pursue her dance career.