



**BLOOMING**  
Inclusion and Diversity in STEAM

## Interview Questions

**STEAM Journey :** "Can you share your journey and what inspired you to pursue a career in STEAM? Were there any key moments or influential figures that directed you towards this path?"

**Answer:** My journey into the world of STEAM began with a degree in Physics from Barnard College and continued with graduate and doctoral studies in Engineering and Applied Sciences at Yale University. My academic path was enriched by postdoctoral positions at Yale and MIT (LIDS). A pivotal moment was joining the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT as a Boeing Assistant Professor. My teachers played a significant role, encouraging me to delve deeper into the sciences, along with the leading scientists I encountered along the way.

**STEAM Achievement :** "What do you consider your most significant achievement or contribution to your field? How do you hope your work will impact the future of STEAM?"

**Answer:** One of my most notable achievements is my research in aeronautics and astronautics, which has contributed to the advancement of aircraft and spacecraft technologies. I aspire for my work to inspire and guide future generations of scientists and engineers, fostering continuous innovation and progress in the STEAM fields.

**Challenges and Overcoming Them:** "Throughout your career in STEAM, what were some of the significant challenges you faced both in your personal and professional



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life? How did you overcome them? How did these challenges shape your professional journey?"

**Answer:** My path has not been easy. At Columbia, I was the only woman in graduate studies, facing biases. A professor at Yale greeted me with a derogatory comment about my appearance when I asked to discuss faculty matters. Instead of being discouraged, I responded with courage and continued. When I became pregnant, I didn't disclose it until my fifth month to avoid discrimination. When offered maternity leave, I chose to keep teaching for the sake of my students. These challenges have made me stronger and more determined in my professional journey.

**Advice for Young Women:** "What advice would you give to young girls who are interested in STEAM but might be hesitant to pursue it due to stereotypes or the fear of failure?"

**Answer:** I advise young girls not to let stereotypes define their interests. When someone is passionate about their subject, success is inevitable. They should believe in the limitless power within themselves and not fear making mistakes. I remember when a colleague disdainfully asked what I was working on, and I replied, "I'm thinking. You should try it too." He never asked such a question again. Women possess unlimited potential and can achieve anything they desire. They must innovate, embrace mistakes, and believe in their capabilities. STEAM is a field without boundaries, open to everyone.

**Future of Women in STEAM:** "Looking towards the future, how do you see the role of women evolving in STEAM fields? What changes do you think are necessary to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for women in STEAM?"

**Answer:** I believe the future for women in STEAM is bright. To create a more supportive environment, we must encourage our female students to explore diverse applications of science and participate in international exchange programs. Applied mathematics is the foundation of knowledge that can lead to innovations. If we allow young people to explore their potential, we can achieve great things.



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