



BLOOMING
Inclusion and Diversity in STEAM

Interview Questions

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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?"

At the tender age of 12 I was aware of my proficiency in mathematics and physics and I would consistently rank between the top students of my class. Naturally, that seemed the only path for me to follow, to become an engineer. With the support from my surrounding, both my parents and my teachers and a firm belief in my abilities, my course was set. I never had a doubt or a second thought.

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?"

In the rapidly evolving landscape of the technology field, my greatest achievement is my resilience—I've endured and continued to learn. Each time I enter a meeting as the sole female engineer, I feel a sense of satisfaction. Seeing the admiration in my children's eyes when they proudly declare, "My mom is an engineer," is a testament to my journey and fills me with immense pride.

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?"

I was no exception. Like many women who have been working in traditionally male-dominated fields for almost 30 years, I have had to confront numerous stereotypes, eg stereotypes that often suggest that women should handle easier tasks at work or question our ability to fully engage in and succeed in all projects. It took me years of hard work to persuade my colleagues that I am trustworthy.

In my personal life, it was challenging during the early years to reassure my husband that our marriage had nothing to fear because of my night shifts working alongside male colleagues.

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?"

You must believe in yourself and recognize your potential. Ask yourself the question: What would I do if I was not afraid? And just do it. Always remember that your gender does not determine your future, your will and your hard work does. Trust yourself and go on! You are just as capable as anyone else.

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?"

The future holds great promise for a positive change at the role of women in STEAM fields. The society becomes more aware of the diversity and equity every day and there will be a great push to actively involve women in STEAM.

The changes needed are many and if I could mention the two most important, these would be first, to break the stereotypes inside the families through education, so that young girls would expose themselves in STEAM at early ages.



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The second change would be, to create a more supportive work-life balance for women, with flexible working hours for example, parental leaves, or childcare so that women can sustain both a profession and a family.



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