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Inspiring the Next Generation of Women in STEM

What do you enjoy most about your role at Univar Solutions?

My role allows me to collaborate with different groups of people from diverse backgrounds and learn something new every day.

What are you most proud of achieving in your career thus far?

Collaborating with a team to file a patent on an existing agrochemical that we discovered had a new use in the oil and gas industry – truly an exceptional experience. The product is still sold today.

Who is a woman who inspires you and why?

Several, but I'll highlight two. The first is my mother, who answered my who, what, when, how and why questions and fostered problem-solving skills I still use every day. The second is my high school chemistry teacher who inspired me to study chemistry in college and showed me how much fun you can have when you find a career that you genuinely love.

What three characteristics do you think are most important for women in STEM to have and why?

1. Good communication skills – STEM careers are much more than lab experiments. It's a lot of collaboration with customers, other departments and each other.
2. Persistence – The best solution is not always the first one to present itself. Trial and error must happen first before we reach our goal.
3. Curiosity – Never stop exploring the world around you. Remember what sparked your love of science.

How are you working to inspire the next generation of women in STEM?

My 5-year-old daughter is attending a STEM elementary school, and I love answering her who, what, when, where, and why questions.

What advice would you give to the next generation of women in STEM?

1. Find a career that allows you to learn every day and where coworkers are supportive and fun to be around.
2. Ask questions. That's how you learn and its likely someone else wanted to ask the same question.

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