



## Allison Hunter

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USA

### Inspiring the Next Generation of Women in STEM

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

The variety - no day is ever the same. One day I'm formulating or evaluating the performance of a sunscreen, lipstick, or laundry detergent. The next day, I may be writing papers for industry journals, or particularly pre-COVID-19, visiting customers, providing technical support during trade shows, or hosting events at the lab to showcase our technical capabilities for our suppliers and customers.

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

Pursue a well-rounded education, not just in math and science. Learning to write well and present your ideas are keys to success. Seek industry internships during college to identify where your interests lie within your chosen field. While completing my chemical engineering degree, an internship is what helped me discover manufacturing wasn't for me, but that I really enjoyed research and development.

#### What excites you about the future of the chemical and ingredient industry?

The increased focus in developing more sustainable solutions, in terms of using more renewable raw material sources, generating less pollution, and developing processes with lower energy usage. Consumers are looking for finished products that are "clean" and "green" while also performing well, such as the sunscreen formulas I helped develop with SPF (50+) benefits that also complied with legislation to protect coral reefs.

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

1. Curiosity – Be interested in how things work and uncover the cause-and-effect relationship for the problem you're trying to solve.
2. Perseverance – New technical discoveries and products are rarely developed in one or two tries.
3. Communication – You need excellent written documentation to replicate your work and validate your results, as well as verbal skills to convey your technical discoveries effectively.

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

I love being part of the special STEM days we host for girls and boys at our Solution Center lab in Houston. We conduct lab demonstrations and hands-on projects, such as making lotion, hair gel, slime, and more.

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