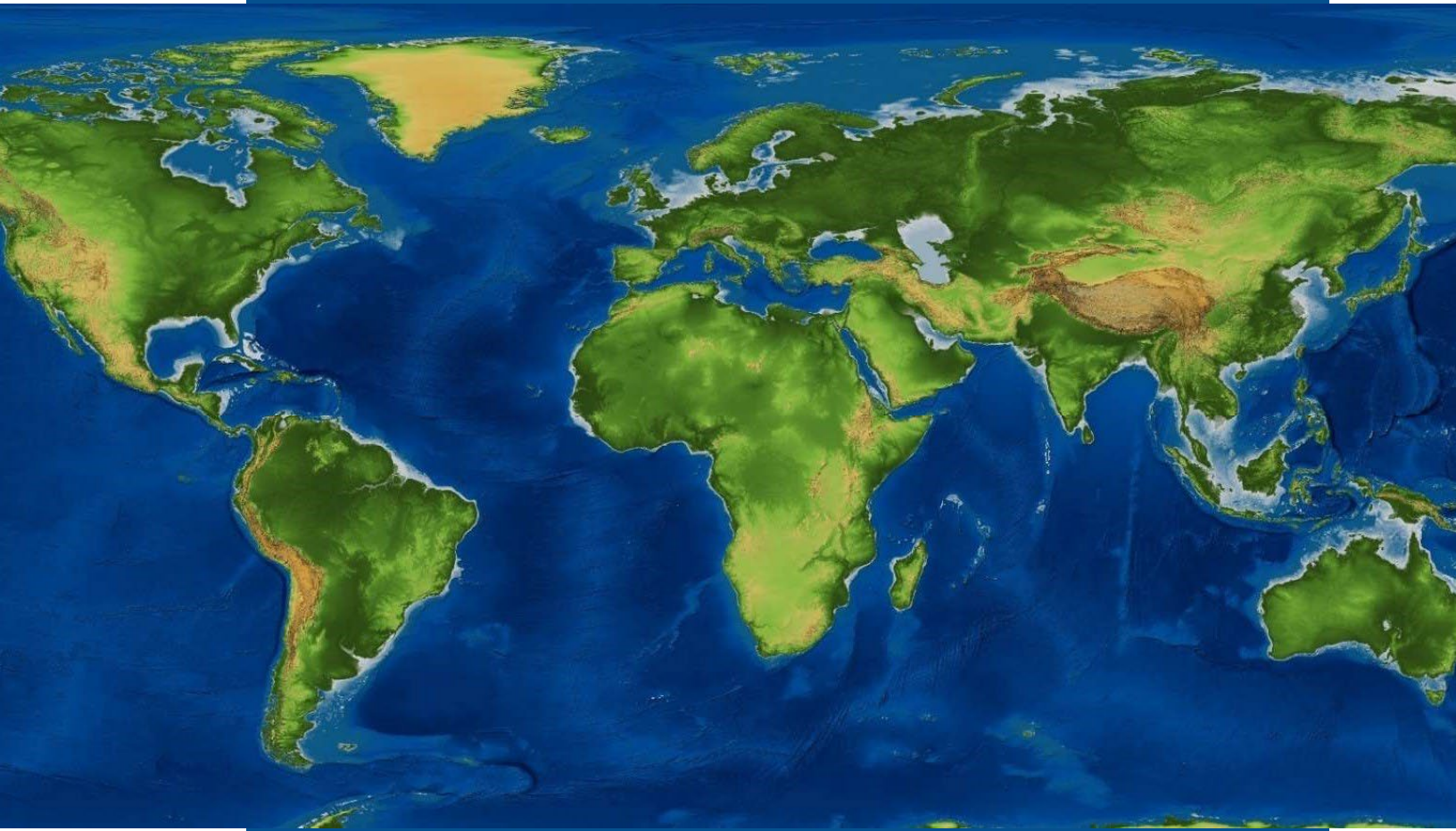




3

Tech Trek-WA Professional Women's Night



The World Awaits You

July 13, 2023 – Camp Bonnie Dunbar

July 20, 2023 – Camp Barbara McClintock

2023 TECH TREK-WA TEAM

Karen Manelis	Director, AAUW-WA Tech Trek
Florence Young	Director, Camp Bonnie Dunbar
Krislyn Davis	Director, Camp Barbara McClintock
Sue Richart	Assistant Camp Director, Camp McClintock
Jennifer Dalziel	Curriculum Coordinator
Kathryn McCoy	Volunteer Coordinator
Allyanna Hackenberg	
Kathryn McCoy	Health Aide, Camp Bonnie Dunbar
Ginette Raynor	Health Aide, Camp Barbara McClintock
Leslie Priest Roabul	Photography
Mary Letterman	Social Media & Photography

TEACHERS

Loretta Berger	Sarah Harrier	Missy Leone
Kyle McEligot	Megan O'Brien	Dana Steele
Laura Tucker		

DORM LEADERS

Dunbar Camp

Karla Jacks	Joey Rosario	Laina Sablan
Emma Steele-Sierk	Olivia Witherspoon	

McClintock Camp

June Arnold	Judy Fruhbauer	Aria Juchmes
Reitha Weeks	Olivia Witherspoon	

STUDENT COUNSELORS

Dunbar Camp

Taylor Bradshaw	Kaitlyn (Flynn) Cook	Lola Hawkins
Vivian Lam	Jenny Le	Charlotte Mulligan
Danielle Ramsahal		

McClintock Camp

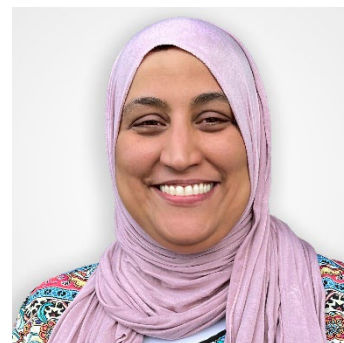
Bhumika Balani	Caitlyn Brar	Callie Carlson
Ava Erickson	Valerie Gerdes	Shreya Madhavan

Professional Women's Night Guests

Hanan Amer, Material and Process, Boeing Company

Colleges Attended and Degrees: Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Benghazi University in Libya.

Positions: Chemist (Material and Process Engineer) working for Boeing Research and Technology. In Libya, female STEM degree holders were often limited to office jobs or teaching positions. In Libya, she worked as an Operations Assistant for Challenger Limited.



How did you end up in this career? Since 2011, I have been employed by Boeing. I initially started as a lab Technician and later transitioned into the role of an engineer in Boeing Research and Technology (BR&T).

What advice would you give a girl going into 8th grade who loves STEM? Embrace your passion: If you have a love for STEM subjects, continue to explore and learn more about them. Follow your interests and let Your curiosity guides you.

What would you do differently? Is there anything you wish you had studied that you did not? Looking back on my experiences, I would have explored alternative opportunities beyond office and teaching roles due to the limitations and job options for females with a chemistry degree in Libya. This could have involved networking, attending industry events, or seeking internships or training programs outside of Libya to gain exposure to different career paths.

Instead of asking what do you want to be when you grow up, ask what problems do you want to solve.

Lauren Hurt-Ashwin

Sofia Aragon, Executive Director, Washington Center for Nursing

Colleges Attended and Degrees: University of Washington-Seattle with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics, then Seattle University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Finally, I attended Loyola University-Chicago School of Law and earned a Juris Doctor (law degree)

Positions: Various positions include staff nurse at Providence-Seattle Hospital (now Swedish Cherry Hill), Legislative and Policy Manager for the WA State Department of Health, and Senior Governmental Affairs Advisor for the WA State Nurses Association. Executive Director of the Washington Center for Nursing and the Mayor of the City of Burien



How did you end up in this career? Being an Executive Director was a natural progression from my career. As an advocate for nursing education, I used a lot of the workforce data created by the WA Center for Nursing. When the previous Executive Director retired, she reached out to me and a few of her colleagues and encouraged me to learn more about the position. I still had to do a lot of convincing board members and WCN leaders before obtaining the position. In terms of Mayor, when I was an advocate working in Olympia, women advocates I knew encouraged me to think about running for office. I ran for State Representative and State Senator before I ran for Burien City Council. The Burien City Council elected me Mayor in 2022.

What advice would you give a girl going into 8th grade who loves STEM? Studying science will open many doors for you in terms of careers. STEM is very fundamental to occupations such as engineering, nursing, medicine, and many more. Our society needs women in these careers.

What would you do differently? Is there anything you wish you had studied that you did not? While I did well through middle school in math and science, those subjects became much more challenging for me in high school. I wish I had taken advantage of talking more with my science teachers or asking my parents to help me get a tutor. Math and science courses are only more challenging in college, so I wish I had worked harder earlier.

Alex Bauccho, Test Engineer, Blue Origin

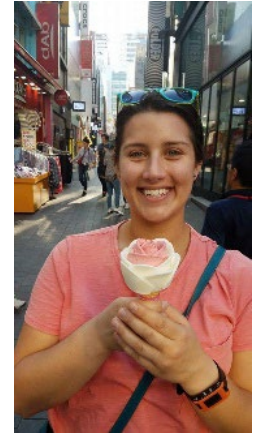
Colleges Attended and Degrees: Purdue University, B.S. in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering

Positions: While at Purdue, Co-op at ATA Engineering, Inc. I worked as a design engineer, analyst, and test engineer in San Diego, LA, and Denver for over five semesters.

After graduation, as an engineer at Rolls-Royce. I worked as an analyst, performance engineer, service engineer, test engineer, and design engineer in Indianapolis and Germany for over nine years.

I'm currently a test engineer at Blue Origin in Kent, WA.

How did you end up in this career? While in high school, I decided I wanted to go into engineering. I was good at math, science, and problem-solving, and that's what was recommended. I originally wanted to do chemical engineering, but I was much more interested in the classes and job opportunities available for Aerospace Engineers, so I switched! After trying many different jobs, I knew that testing was what I wanted to do and decided to pursue that.



What advice would you give a girl going into 8th grade who loves STEM? STEM is so many different things; you should try a variety of classes and extra-curricular courses to find what you're passionate about and what you're good at.

What would you do differently? Is there anything you wish you had studied that you did not? Not stress so much! I know this is easier said than done, but there were times I overworked myself in high school and college to the detriment of my mental health. While it's still important to work hard and learn, you should also make time to relax and enjoy your time!

Tonya Kauhi, GIS Data Analyst, Office of Innovation & Technology, Washington State Department of Health

Colleges Attended and Degrees: Associates of Arts & Sciences (Biology) from Tacoma Community College.

Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) from the University of Washington Tacoma

Positions: Environmental Scientist, GIS Analyst, Senior GIS Analyst, Project Manager,

Geospatial Data Services Group Leader and GIS Program Manager, and GIS Developer.



How did you end up in this career? A guest speaker from an Earth Science & Technology consulting company came to my first Geographic Information System (GIS) class in college and showed us how a GIS could track, visualize, and help identify and solve environmental issues. From that moment on, I knew wherever I worked as an Environmental Scientist, I wanted to use a GIS as part of my work. I completed an internship with the company, was eventually hired permanently, and spent nearly 18 years using my science background and GIS to solve environmental problems. I have held similar GIS positions at the Port of Tacoma, the City of Tacoma, and currently at the State Health Department.

What advice would you give a girl going into 8th grade who loves STEM? Find what you love to do and do it, no matter what anyone says or how hard it gets. Try new things and be brave enough to know when to move on. Embrace failure, learn from it, and keep moving forward. Say yes to opportunities that make you uncomfortable because these are the times you grow the most.

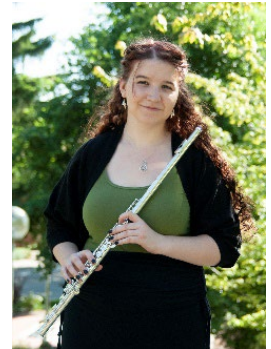
What would you do differently? Is there anything you wish you had studied that you did not? Early in my career, I did not understand how valuable building a professional network is to career advancement and opportunities. I lead a networking group (WA Women in GIS & Technology), and all my opportunities to advance my career have come directly from these connections. I also wish I had taken more statistics classes in college.

Stasia Kulsa, Acoustics Engineer, Blue Origin

Colleges Attended and Degrees: Washington State University, B. S. Mechanical Engineering and Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance (2020), Master of Arts in Flute Performance (2022)

Positions Private Flute Teacher (2020-2022), Assistant Manager, Frank Innovation Zone at WSU, HYPER Lab: A research lab at WSU, this focused on researching hydrogen. I worked on many projects here as a research assistant, including creating several MLI shields, running an experiment that could liquefy hydrogen, and assisting on a project that won the NASA BIG Idea Challenge in 2022. Tech Trek (2014-2016) I spent two years with Tech Trek as a student counselor and one year as a teaching assistant for the robotics class

How did you end up in this career? I started with the intention of being a performer while also working as an engineer, either building props for companies like Disney or Cirque du Soleil or working at a rocket company. Shortly after graduating, I attended an open house for Blue Origin, where I could talk to many different employees and learn about what they did. One of the people I spoke to worked with the acoustic treatment for the New Glenn rocket. From that event, I interviewed for a few different positions. I was hired as an acoustics engineer, which was cool because it allowed me to use all of my degrees in a way that I did not know was possible.



What advice would you give a girl going into 8th grade who loves STEM? If you are interested in STEM, keep pursuing it but don't be afraid to explore the arts as well. I was challenged a few times along the way because I did pursue both the arts and STEM. I was told that people would not take me seriously because I was an artist and not an engineer. What I found was that pursuing both opened up so many opportunities. If you are interested in STEM, the best thing you can do is keep exploring and see if you can find places in STEM that overlap with your other interests.

What would you do differently? Is there anything you wish you had studied that you did not? I would not have done anything differently. I did not choose an easy path, but I knew that going in. It was the right path for me.

"Be yourself, everyone else is already taken."

Wendi Lubinus, Forest Engineer III / Rayonier Forest Resources

Colleges Attended and Degrees: University of Idaho Bachelor of Science Forest Engineering -Forest Operations emphasis.

Positions Logger - Business owner, Forestry Intern, Forest Engineer, Log Quality Coordinator, Logging Foreman, Lead Forest Engineer

How did you end up in this career? Enjoy working outside and Love of the Forest.

What advice would you give a girl going into 8th grade who loves STEM? Don't let anyone tell you you can't do it - ignore the haters, Get on the ground experience, and get your hands dirty.



What would you do differently? Is there anything you wish you had studied that you did not? No, I have had some ups and downs in my career, but everything I went thru helps me in my current job.

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

--Marie Curie

Source: https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/marie_curie

Mindi Kellar, Senior Water Quality Manager, Northwest Seaport Alliance

Colleges Attended and Degrees: University of Oregon, BS in Environmental Geography, minor in Geology.

Positions: Water Quality Supervisor, Pierce County (2019 - 2023)
Construction Stormwater General Permit Writer - Washington Department of Ecology (2018 - 2019)
Water Quality Specialist - City of Federal Way (2016 - 2018)
Industrial Stormwater Specialist, 401 Water Quality Specialist, Site Assessment Specialist, Database Coordinator - Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (1999 - 2016)
Field Tech - EMCON (1994 - 1999)



How did you end up in this career? I ended up in this career kind of by accident. I never saw myself in a science career in school. I started answering phones as a temporary hire for a consulting firm called EMCON. I saw other employees doing fieldwork, and that looked very interesting. I asked to learn more about fieldwork, attended training, and began collecting water quality samples at various industrial sites. I went back to school to get my degree in the environmental field while working at DEQ. When I moved to Washington in 2016, I learned how stormwater and water quality are addressed in Washington. I have been lucky to work for local and state governments and to learn from great people. I work at the Port of Tacoma now and am enjoying learning the important part Ports play in our communities and helping protect and improve water quality.

What advice would you give a girl going into 8th grade who loves STEM? Keep an open mind, learn as much as you can, and don't be afraid to show how smart you are.

What would you do differently? Is there anything you wish you had studied that you did not?
Recognize my abilities and knowledge - speak up more.

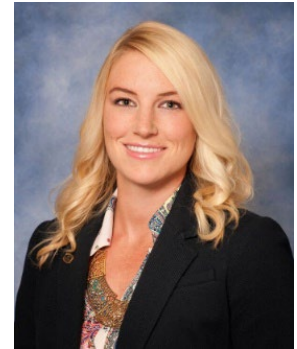
"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

- African proverb that reminds me of the importance of teamwork

Grace Roberts, Associate Vice President, Senior Scientist/Diver. I work for WSP USA.

Colleges Attended and Degrees: Louisiana State University, Bachelor of Science in Marine Science with a minor in Chemistry; Masters of Science in Oceanography.

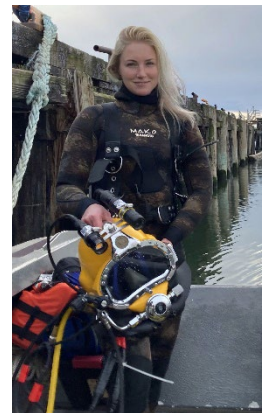
Positions I began my career as a Scientist working for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a federal agency, as a Marine Observer. I worked offshore for months at a time, observing fish and marine mammal kills at the demolition of oil and gas platforms. I was transferred to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, where I lived on commercial fishing vessels and performed random sampling of fish catch to inform commercial fishery regulations. I then took a job as an environmental scientist with a private engineering firm where I still work today. My firm has a commercial dive team, and I perform scientific diving for in-water permitting large-scale projects for the U.S. Navy and Ports.



How did you end up in this career? I knew in high school that I wanted a career that would be mentally challenging and keep me outside in nature. Being a scientist provides that since “field work” is a large component of what I do. Fieldwork involves wetland delineations, water scuba diving surveys of fish and habitats, tree and bird surveys, and more.

What advice would you give a girl going into 8th grade who loves STEM? Get involved and find a mentor! A mentor is someone you trust, who is usually older than you, and has the type of life or job you want. A mentor can be a family friend, a teacher, or another adult you know and trust involved in STEM and can help you understand how to get involved. Once you find a mentor, you become the “mentee.” The mentee’s job is to reach out to the mentor and ask questions. The mentor can provide guidance and help and keep you on the right track! In addition to finding a mentor, look for volunteer opportunities in your community. If you are interested in Tech, look at T-Mobile or Amazon’s websites for opportunities for students to get involved. If you’re interested in science, consider volunteering at Northwest Trek or the aquarium. Your mentor will have a lot of ideas for you on how to get involved.

What would you do differently? Is there anything you wish you had studied that you did not? In all honestly, there’s not much I would change. I have had a fulfilling career thus far: diving in aquariums with whale sharks, living on a remote island in the Bahamas studying coral, surviving 20-foot seas in the Bering Sea in Alaska catching salmon sharks, and living on oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico studying the effects of oil spills on marine mammals. I had these opportunities because I was not afraid to leave my home and my friends, to take a chance and walk into completely new places knowing nobody and make the most of whatever I had gotten myself into. Fortunately, I don’t have regrets: my greatest advice is to be fearless and let your life unfold into your own personal road to happy destiny.



Kathleen Sullivan, Open Data Librarian, Washington State Library

Colleges Attended and Degrees: Duke University, B.A, Religion; University of Washington, Master of Library and Information Science.

Positions: Journalist, covering mainly government, courts, and financial news; freelance writer, mainly philanthropic initiatives, volunteer fundraising, program development, patient-clinician communication, librarian.



How did you end up in this career? Since college, most of my professional and volunteer work has been information-based – journalism, grant reports, fundraising, and communication. Librarianship gave me a chance to pull that together and add expertise in data, which was often in the background earlier.

What advice would you give a girl going into 8th grade who loves STEM? The world hasn't finished figuring out what STEM looks like. So, if you like STEM, assume it looks like you.

What would you do differently? If I knew then what I know now? Take statistics earlier.

Is there anything you wish you had studied that you did not? Take statistics.

What did you think you wanted to do for a career when you were 13 years old? I probably told people, "Architect," but I really didn't know. I hadn't experienced anything but school.

You are braver than you believe, stronger than you see, and smarter than you think.



techtrek-wa.aauw.net



**American Association of University Women (aauw.org) AAUW
Washington (aauw-wa.aauw.net/)**

Our Mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Vision Statement: AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

Diversity Statement: AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance. One of the best investments you'll ever make for yourself and for women and girls for less than \$100 per year! **Join today.**