

Suzanne (Suzy) Cody

Job title: Senior Project Aero-Development Engineer,
General Motors

Job description

Leading hands on research and development in aerodynamics at General Motors.



Did you always know you wanted to be an engineer?

I wouldn't say I was always really good at math. And I think that's a misconception that people think, "Oh I couldn't do that because I'm not good at math." Now you have all these things that solve problems for you, from a math standpoint, but it's the concepts that you need to understand, not the actual physical writing the math, writing out the problems on a piece of paper.

I would say that I like the problem solving part of engineering. I sort of surprised myself with the automotive industry. My degree is in aerospace engineering from the University of Michigan, and that's a lot of airplanes and rockets.

What kind of advice do you have for someone who might be considering a similar field?

My brother once told me when I got out of college, and I was just ready then to just be out of school and making some money, "Don't take any job. Where do you want to be in ten years?" So I told him and he said, "Don't take any job that doesn't get you closer to that. Any lateral move is okay, but if you want to get into a wind tunnel, don't take the job doing material work, or working in a different type of lab in a different type of thing. If you want to get into the automotive industry, then go there. Don't step on a stone that doesn't get you closer to that job in ten years. Don't lose focus on where you want to be."

And if I hadn't listened to him, I would have taken one of those first couple jobs out. Instead I waited another month or two and I got my ten year goal right out of school pretty much.

The other thing I would tell people, young men and women, getting into this business is that you've got to talk to people that actually do the job that you're considering because there's so many misconceptions out there to what it is you'd be doing. Don't let your preconceived notions of what a particular job or field would be keep you from finding that perfect specialized job for you.