

Anita Burke

Job title: Vehicle Chief Engineer, Chevrolet Colorado, GMC Canyon (2015 Models)

Job description

I'm involved in decisions relative to design, the engineering of the parts, how they go together [and] the performance-making decisions that the integration of the vehicle is what our customers expect and deserve.



Did you always know you wanted to get into this career? What sparked your interest?

I always loved math and science. The auto industry was something that never really was on my radar screen. I was actually at an all-girls parochial Catholic school and it really wasn't an area where it was strongly encouraged. It was not "normal," right? And it paralleled to this chemistry teacher encouraging me.

My brother was also going into engineering and I had this conversation with him about what my chemistry teacher said, and he said, "Hey, why don't you consider engineering?" And then I started investigating at that point I said, "Hoh, this is something I would absolutely love doing."

What is your favorite part of the job?

I think I would say my favorite part of my job is the day when I get to drive our product and see it all come together. When you have the opportunity as I have to work with the truck from "paper" – a computer design – right in the integration. It's fun to so see those parts come together and components get built into a full vehicle. And then, to actually sit behind the wheel and have it perform how we engineered it, that I find most exciting. Every day I get to drive our truck is the best day.

So what would you say to someone who may be considering a similar career path?

I would say first and foremost, "Go for it." If you love math and science, there's so much you can do with it. I think that's one of the things I hope to impress on all the youth, including young women, but also young men that there's so much to do with it. I think there's a lack of understanding of what you can do with math and science.

So grab onto it. Sit up at the table, don't sit back. Know when to ask questions. There's no such thing as a bad question. Every question is a good question. You'll always take some information away and learn from that and take that on, and on, and on and build on that. And the world's at your feet.

