



# Sloan Career Cornerstone Center

## Profiles of Nuclear Engineers



**Larry Foulke**

**Chief Scientist  
Bechtel Bettis, Inc.**

### Education:

- ▶ BS/Nuclear Engineering, MS/Nuclear Engineering – Kansas State University
- ▶ PhD/Nuclear Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

### Job Description:

Design, develop, deliver and reactor for space applications.

### Comments:

As opposed to the school environment, the real world has much more emphasis on qualification and verification of analytical tools used, and much more depth of design work.

### Advice to Students:

Just because you get a degree, doesn't mean you "have it made." Never stop your professional development in your career.

### ▶ INTERVIEW SEGMENTS

- ▶ Q: When did you know you wanted to become a Nuclear Engineer?
  - ▶ Foulke: When I got a \$200 scholarship to enter the Nuclear Engineering program after high school.
- ▶ Q: What was your college experience like?
  - ▶ Foulke: Rewarding, memorable, and educational.
- ▶ Q: Did you co-op while you were an undergrad?
  - ▶ Foulke: Yes, with Dow Chemical Company in 1957 and with Argonne National Laboratory in 1958.
- ▶ Q: How did you get your first job?
  - ▶ Foulke: From an ROTC Commission (U.S. Army 1966-68) and interviews with many companies (1967-1968).

### "Profiles of Nuclear Engineers"

Prepared for the Sloan Career Cornerstone Center ([www.careercornerstone.org](http://www.careercornerstone.org))

Source: American Nuclear Society

- ▶ Q: What's the most rewarding thing about being a Nuclear Engineer?
- ▶ Foulke: To work with a remarkable technology that benefits mankind in so many ways.
  
- ▶ Q: Do you spend a fair amount of time traveling?
- ▶ Foulke: Periodically, but not steady.
  
- ▶ Q: Do you have a mentor? Or did you in your college years?
- ▶ Foulke: My professors.
  
- ▶ Q: Do you find yourself working more in a team situation, or more alone?
- ▶ Foulke: Team situations.
  
- ▶ Q: Do you find you are able to balance work with social/family life while working in your current job?
- ▶ Foulke: Yes.
  
- ▶ Q: If you had to do it all over again, would you still become a Nuclear Engineer?
- ▶ Foulke: Yes.
  
- ▶ Q: Did you think that school prepared you for the way the work gets done in the real world?
- ▶ Foulke: Yes and no. The real world has much more emphasis on qualification and verification of analytical tools used, and much more depth of design work.
  
- ▶ Q: Where do you see jobs for Nuclear Engineers in the future? What should students be doing to prepare themselves to take on those roles?
- ▶ Foulke: Design and development of reactors for applications in space, electricity production, and hydrogen production.
  
- ▶ Q: What other advice do you have for students?
- ▶ Foulke: Just because you get a degree, doesn't mean you "have it made." Never stop your professional development in your career. Take the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam now. You'll never be better prepared for it and you can never tell about what the future holds with respect to the need for professional registration.

**"Profiles of Nuclear Engineers"**

Prepared for the Sloan Career Cornerstone Center ([www.careercornerstone.org](http://www.careercornerstone.org))

Source: American Nuclear Society