



Sloan Career Cornerstone Center

Profiles of Chemical Engineers



Michelle Imhoff

Process Engineer
Shell Chemical Company
Deer Park, TX

Education:

B.S. - Chemical Engineering, Montana State University

Job Description:

Process engineer providing technical support to operations

Advice to Students:

"You have to know yourself well enough to be able to determine what's best for you, and you have to know enough about the companies to determine where you'll fit in."

Video Transcript 1:

"Well, every day your job is different. That's, that's one of the bonuses, I guess, of this job. Overall a technical support to operations is responsible for unit performance monitoring. So you are responsible to make, make the product and make sure that it's low cost."

Video Transcript 2:

"You have to know what you want out of life. You have to know what's important. Do you want a lot of personal time, do you want to work in the field? You have to know yourself well enough to be able to determine what's best for you and you have to know enough about the companies to determine where you'll fit in."

Interview:

Imhoff: My name is Michelle Imhoff and I work for Shell Chemical Company. I'm a TSO, which is technical support to operations. I've worked for Shell for six years, and I graduated from Montana State University in 1990.

Q: What do you do on a day-to-day basis?

Imhoff: Every day your job is different-that's one of the bonuses of this job. Typically, a technical support to operations is responsible for unit performance monitoring.

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Q: What advice would you offer to someone interested in chemical engineering?

Imhoff: You need to ask yourself some questions: Do you want to work with a lot of people or would you rather be in a research lab kind of by yourself? You have to know yourself well enough to be able to determine what's best for you, and you have to know enough about the companies to determine where you'll fit in.

Q: Did your undergraduate education prepare you for your job?

Imhoff: I think that as a student you get a good base, and you get a good theory level. In the real world, you get the experience. Theory is a lot different from reality-it's very difficult to predict what is really going on. In school, they give you an equation and all the constants that you need. In real life, you have to figure out what they are. And with every unit that you work at, it's going to be different.

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