



Sloan Career Cornerstone Center

Profiles of Materials Science and Engineering Professionals



Melinda Anderson

**Product Design Engineer
Sebro Plastics Inc.
Wixom, MI**

Education:

1994 - BS in Materials Science & Engineering, Michigan State University

Job Description:

Research and Development

Advice to Students:

"Dot your 'I's" and cross your 'T's", don't be afraid to make phone calls or write letters and keep a positive attitude because you are "selling" yourself."

Video Transcript:

"No matter what degree that you have, it's not going to prepare you totally for work. Most of the things that I have learned in work is just being on the job. With school, it gave me the critical reasoning, how to solve problems, that way of thinking. But there's no way to really prepare yourself for what to expect, in the workplace."

Interview:

- Typical Day

7:00 AM - Rush to get ready for work. (Hint: iron clothes the night before)
8:00 AM - Still driving to work; usually arrive at 8:15 AM (Thank goodness for flexible hours!)
9:00 AM - Drink second cup of coffee; working on unfinished business from previous week.
10:00 AM - Third cup of coffee; getting into the development of new ideas.
11:00 AM - Switch to soda, still working on the computer.
12:00 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM - Lunch over, back to work.
2:00 PM - Afternoon cup of coffee; working on project.
3:00 PM - No change from 2:00.
4:00 PM - Working on project.
5:00 PM - Wrapping up the day's work.
6:00 PM - Home welcomed at the door by my cats.
Evening - Workout, cook dinner, watch Jeopardy & get ready for another day at work.

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Prepared as part of the Sloan Career Cornerstone Center (www.careercornerstone.org)

Source: "Careers In Materials Science and Engineering" © The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society

- Career Experience

1994-Present: Sebro Plastics. Develop & design plastic injection molded electrical connectors for automotive purposes.

- Internships & Coops

1991 - Designer, Donzi Marine.

1988-1990 - Draftsman-Designer, Muskin Inc.

- Honors & Awards

Customer Satisfaction through Excellence Award's, Innovator's Award from Sonoco Products Corp., Who's Who Among American College Students

- Best Preparation

Being raised within a "technically" minded family of Engineers, and a lot of hard work and self-motivation.

- Getting First Job

Contacted a "Head Hunter" who places people in technical fields.

- Advice

Dot your "I's" and cross your "T's", don't be afraid to make phone calls or write letters and keep a positive attitude because you are "selling" yourself.

- Memberships

Society of Manufacturing Engineers