



# Sloan Career Cornerstone Center

## Profiles of Materials Science and Engineering Professionals



### Bill Durako

**President and Principal Engineer  
Materials Engineering, Inc.  
Virgil, IL**

#### Education:

1981 - BS in Metallurgical Engineering, Purdue University

#### Job Description:

Management/Production

#### Advice to Students:

"Become a well-rounded engineer, not just a materials specialist. Remember communication and people skills will help you to succeed."

#### Video Transcript 1:

"Graduating from college and having an educational background in Materials Engineering I could then choose whatever field, whatever I wanted to apply my trade to. That's one of the unique things about Materials Engineering, is that that makes it enjoyable. Because of that, if you have a love of golf clubs - guess what - advanced materials and golf clubs go together. There's graphic shafts and there's a lot of fancy things going on and if that's what you want to do with a background in Materials Engineering, you can do that."

#### Video Transcript 2:

"When I left the Aerospace Industry and got into the consulting business, one of the things that became very clear to me is that as a credential, having a professional engineering license was mandatory, especially if you're going to get into any courtroom testimony the lawyers will almost always ask you, 'Are you licensed? Are you a registered professional Engineer?'"

#### Interview:

#### Typical Day

7:00 AM - Swim, wake up family and leave for work.

8:00 AM - Organize day, discuss projects with staff.

9:00 AM - Receive new jobs, discuss with staff

10:00 AM - Work with staff, performing lab work, sem. testing

11:00 AM - Reading handbooks.

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12:00 PM - Have lunch with wife (who works with me).  
1:00 PM - Continue project work  
2:00 PM - Calling customers & discussing results  
3:00 PM - Writing reports, suggesting follow on work  
4:00 PM - Meet with customers, presenting results  
5:00 PM - Preparing invoices/bills  
6:00 PM - Arrive home and cook dinner to starving kids.  
7:00 PM - Finish reports on PC while kids do homework.

### **- Career Experience**

12/94-Present: Materials Engineering, Inc, Principal Engineer.  
1992-1994: Sundstrand Aerospace, Principal Materials Engineer.  
1990-1992: Sundstrand Aerospace, Manager Materials Development.  
1987-1990: Sundstrand Aerospace, Sr. Mat. Dev. Eng.  
1984-1987: Sundstrand Aerospace, Applications Metallurgical Engineer  
1982-1984: Erie Steel Treating, Plant Metallurgist

### **- Honors & Awards**

Armco Achievement Awards, Outstanding Senior Research Project, ASM Scholar, Purdue "Outstanding Materials Engineer" Alumni Award, 2 Patents, 13 Technical Publications.

### **- Best Preparation**

Creativity and enjoyment of solving puzzles & figuring things out. The sense of fascination of learning new things. Inquisitiveness . These characteristics, rather than education or training.

### **- Getting First Job**

I worked summers in high school as a janitor in a heat treating plant. I worked there in my first engineering position. I learned about the janitor position through family contacts.

### **- Advice**

Become a well-rounded engineer, not just a materials specialist. Remember communication and people skills will help you to succeed.

### **- Memberships**

ASM, NSPE

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