



Sloan Career Cornerstone Center

Profiles of Physicists



Michelle O'Brien

Physicist

**Ionizing Radiation Division, Physics Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and Technology**

Education:

A.S. -- Health Physics; Chattanooga State Technical Community College; Environmental Science

B.S. -- Physics; University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

M.S. -- Health Physics; University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Job Description:

Physicist with the Ionizing Radiation Division, Radiation Interactions and Dosimetry Group, in charge of the mammography calibration facility.

Comments:

"When I decided to go into health physics, I realized I needed experience in the field to know I made the right choice. I decided to enter an associate health physics technician program at a community college. Leaving the reputable small liberal arts college that I attended for two years to enter a community college was very difficult. I risked my future-- it ended up being the best risk I ever took. As a result I was able to get a job for two summers at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in New York. This was a great career choice as well as an excellent opportunity for a girl from Tennessee to spend time in New York. I returned from my first summer at BNL very excited about health physics and transferred to a state university with active research in health physics."

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