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Title:	My Journey to becoming a Process Engineer at LANL
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My Journey to becoming a Process Engineer at LANL

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How'd I get into Process Engineering?

- I grew up in Nambe and attended Pojoaque Valley Schools
- Started off as a LAESF Scholar
  - This pushed me to get an internship at LANL
  - First generation student
- Completed my undergraduate degree at Northern Arizona University
  - In chemistry and mechanical engineering
- I was encouraged to pursue my masters by my former mentor and applied for a GEM fellowship
  - I was awarded the fellowship and attended Colorado School of Mines and received a degree in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering
- Upon graduating I began full time at LANL as a process engineer in the foundry

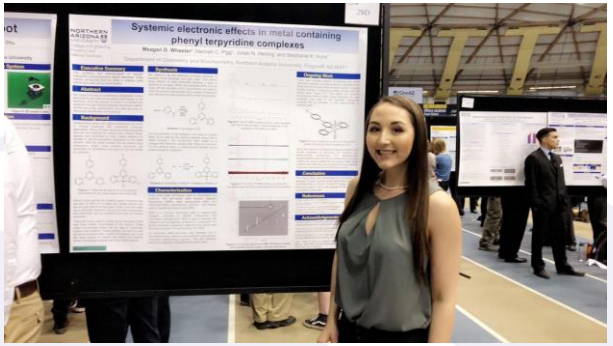

Figure 1: Undergraduate research symposium.

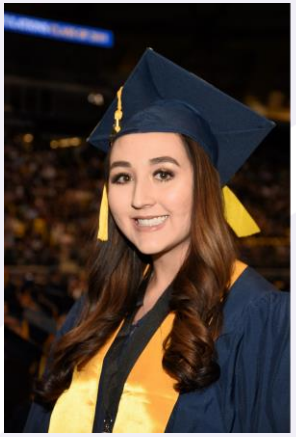

Figure 2: Graduation from Northern Arizona University.

Figure 3: Graduation from Colorado School of Mines.

A Typical Day in the Foundry

- Always start the day with a pre-job
  - We discuss what all we're going to be doing prior to the job occurring
- Half of my day is spent in the foundry processing plutonium
  - Hands on work with the technicians
- The other half of my day is spent working through data obtained from my process
  - This is completed so I can optimize my process
  - I also work through maintenance requests and train new engineers

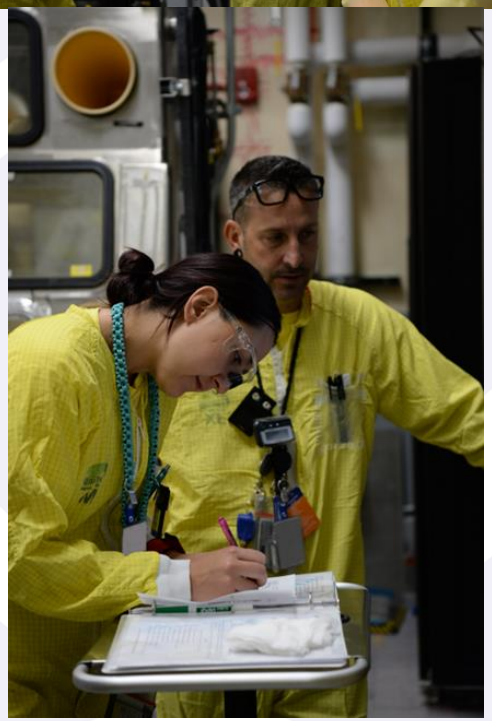

Figure 6: Myself and the technicians.

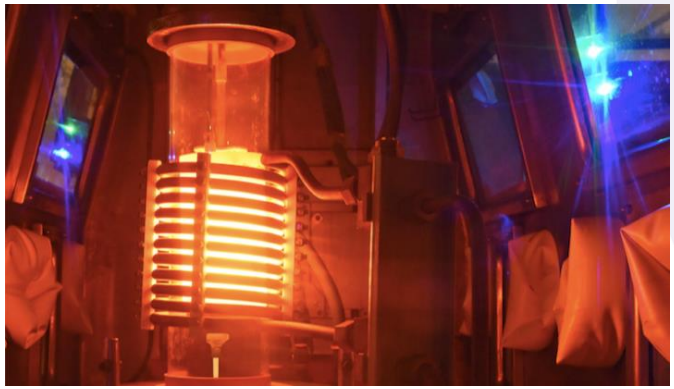

Figure 4: Images of casting operations inside glovebox.

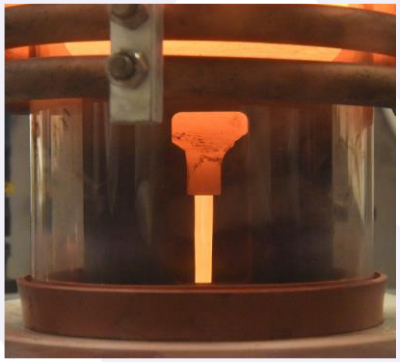

Figure 5: Images of casting operations.

My Inspiration

- My family
  - They've always pushed me to be the best person I can be
  - Encouraged me to pursue what I'm passionate about
- My mentors
  - Other women in STEM
    - Jere Freeh, Dr. Stephanie Hurst, Michele Decroix, Erika Esquivel.
  - Alonso Archuleta, Bill Peach

Figure 7: My dad and I at an awards banquet.

Figure 8: My nephew, sister and I at his high school graduation.

Figure 9: My undergraduate research team with Stephanie Hurst circled.

Figure 10: Michele DeCroix.

Figure 11: Jere Freeh

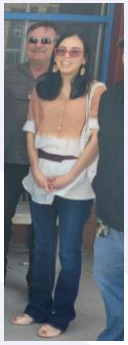

Figure 12: Erika Esquivel

Some Tips and Advice

- Explore your interests early
  - Looking back, it would have been nice if I had more time to develop my skills and see what I truly enjoy academically
- Make connections
  - Growing your network young helps a lot when you need help later in your career
- Go to the school you enjoy
  - The university I went to for undergrad wasn't prestigious, but I ENJOYED myself there and made connections I wouldn't trade for an experience at any other university