



1
00:00:08,050 --> 00:00:04,030
(Music)

2
00:00:08,070 --> 00:00:12,060
My first day of work

3
00:00:12,080 --> 00:00:16,090
was really exciting. I was a little intimidated. I was meeting a lot of people

4
00:00:16,110 --> 00:00:20,110
and seeing a lot of different things. But it was also really, really exciting,

5
00:00:20,130 --> 00:00:24,130
because I knew that I was finally gonna actually be a part of this.

6
00:00:24,150 --> 00:00:28,180
The building that I work in is where a lot of really exciting things happen so I was seeing

7
00:00:28,200 --> 00:00:32,190
a lot of different facilities, and I remember being sore as I was walking around

8
00:00:32,210 --> 00:00:36,210
that first day, because my furniture hadn't arrived yet and I was sleeping on

9
00:00:36,230 --> 00:00:40,230
the floor of my apartment, but it was great. I can't even describe it.

10
00:00:40,250 --> 00:00:44,260
Well, I actually have a bachelor's degree in theater and a lot of people are

11
00:00:44,280 --> 00:00:48,290
really surprised when they hear that, because they always want to know how I went from that

12
00:00:48,310 --> 00:00:52,320
transition of, you know, of studying something that's very creative to something that's more

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00:00:52,340 --> 00:00:56,350

technical, but I think having that kind of creativity is very, very important.

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00:00:56,370 --> 00:01:00,380

I mean, when you are working at some place like Goddard and you're

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00:01:00,400 --> 00:01:04,410

constantly developing new ways of doing things, new ways of exploring things,

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00:01:04,430 --> 00:01:08,440

you do have to be creative and that's something that I think can serve

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00:01:08,460 --> 00:01:12,490

you well. And so, if you are interested in things, you know like the arts, use

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00:01:12,510 --> 00:01:16,610

it to your advantage. When I was in school, I really wanted to build up

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00:01:16,630 --> 00:01:20,660

a resume before I actually graduated and I went online and I came

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00:01:20,680 --> 00:01:24,690

across an internship at Goddard and received it and came out here

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00:01:24,710 --> 00:01:28,700

and I absolutely loved it. It's an absolutely wonderful place to work. It's

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00:01:28,720 --> 00:01:32,770

so exciting to be around people that are so passionate about what they do.

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00:01:32,790 --> 00:01:36,790

The environment is just absolutely beautiful and I knew I wanted to work

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00:01:36,810 --> 00:01:40,810

here, and I went online around the time that I was graduating and they

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00:01:40,830 --> 00:01:44,840

happened to be hiring in the optics and my emphasis was in optics.

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00:01:44,860 --> 00:01:48,860

And we helped to actually build the hardware, align it, do

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00:01:48,880 --> 00:01:52,870

that kind of work. Test it at the subsystem component level.

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00:01:52,890 --> 00:01:56,880

And my job is really interesting, because I do different things

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00:01:56,900 --> 00:02:00,900

each day. Sometimes I am in the lab taking data or looking

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00:02:00,920 --> 00:02:04,910

at data. Sometimes I go to meetings and talk about the data.

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00:02:04,930 --> 00:02:08,930

It's really exciting and to me, you know,

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00:02:08,950 --> 00:02:12,960

trying a new metrology technique and analyzing data,

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00:02:12,980 --> 00:02:17,010

having it show that it works, is just the most exciting thing

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00:02:17,030 --> 00:02:21,020

in the world to me. And it's so amazing to be able to go in and show it to the rest of

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00:02:21,040 --> 00:02:25,050

the people and say - Look, you know what we were going to do, it worked - and we

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00:02:25,070 --> 00:02:29,090

have this data to show it. There's no comparison to that. I just absolutely

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00:02:29,110 --> 00:02:33,170

love it. One of the things that I find the most challenging about my job is

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00:02:33,190 --> 00:02:37,200

no matter how hard I plan or how hard I try there are always things that

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00:02:37,220 --> 00:02:41,240

are outside of my control. We'll be in the middle of building an instrument

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00:02:41,260 --> 00:02:45,280

and a piece of equipment will break, and we need to fix it and kind of rearrange

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00:02:45,300 --> 00:02:49,320

our schedule to accommodate it, explain to people what went wrong,

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00:02:49,340 --> 00:02:53,370

how we're planning on fixing it, and so it's really caused me to kind of

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00:02:53,390 --> 00:02:57,410

not be so rigid and have to be able to go with that flexibility, because I'm the kind of

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00:02:57,430 --> 00:03:01,470

person who needs to know at every moment exactly what I'm doing. And when I'm thrown

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00:03:01,490 --> 00:03:05,530

for a loop like that, you know you just have to be able to recover from it

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00:03:05,550 --> 00:03:09,580

immediately to keep things going. I'm proud of the fact that in my

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00:03:09,600 --> 00:03:13,600

job I won't compromise what I believe is the right thing.

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00:03:13,620 --> 00:03:17,620

At the end of the day I don't really feel that I answer to

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00:03:17,640 --> 00:03:21,640

any project manager or center director. I answer to my conscience

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00:03:21,660 --> 00:03:25,680

and I answer to the tax payers of this country, because they are the ones who allow us

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00:03:25,700 --> 00:03:29,750

to do what we do and it's important to me that we give them something that's meaningful to them.