

Lori Hull, Manager, Project Management Office at ArcBest Technologies

Mentor's education or train path I started out working in accounting and bookkeeping after high school. I went to college for an Accounting degree, with a goal of teaching Accounting or Business in a high school. I took a computer class and was then invited to try out a class in the **Computer Information Systems** degree program. I took my first programming class, and I was hooked! It was so exciting to write code that then did something! I changed my degree and became a programmer out of the business college.

What led you to your STEM position/ field?

ArcBest Technologies was interviewing at my college in Missouri. An instructor at my college told me that was the best company hiring. Started as a Systems Analyst/Programmer supporting different accounting/financial systems for nine years, programming and leading projects. Became a trainer in the company teaching all kinds of programming classes and project management classes to new employees for eleven years. Moved into the project management office to manage large technical projects, and eventually came into my current manager role in that department. I not only took training classes provided by my company, but did a lot of self-study and learning to get to my current position.

Her favorite classes in high school: Accounting

Her favorite classes in college: Programming classes, History (surprisingly), and Public Speaking

Dream job: Inspirational Speaker

Advice:

1. Don't ever quit. Some things are hard and take a long time, but the payoff for your persistence and effort can be huge in your future. Don't take the easy route or your opportunities will be limited.
2. Don't let your current situation define what your future will look like. You decide on where you want to go and go for it. It may take a lot of independent study and hard work, but don't leave this responsibility with anyone else, It is your future.
3. Nerds are cool too! Don't worry about what others think of you. It's ok to be smart.
4. Focus on your strengths. Find classes and a career that uses them.

