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I test metals and alloys to make sure they work in the environment where they will be used. I make sure that the metal will not corrode, and then choose the best materials available to develop equipment used in space and for ground support.

### Areas of expertise:

- Chemistry
- Metals

### How I first became interested in this profession:

When I graduated from Spruce Creek High School in 1987, I knew that I wanted to be a Chemist. I made this decision after I participated in NASA SHARP (Summer High school Apprentice Research Program). After that great experience, I thought I would never see NASA again! I am happy to say I was wrong.

### What helped prepare me for this job:

Before graduating from high school the manager of the SHARP program, guided me in applying for a scholarship program NASA had recently implemented with Spelman College in Atlanta, which included a summer internship with NASA. My college classes and my internships working in the laboratories really helped me prepare me for my job.

### My role models or inspirations:

I have had many role models in my life. First and foremost is my family, especially, my parents. They were always very supportive of my sisters and me, and they provided us with love and a strong moral foundation. Another important person that shaped my life was my high school chemistry teacher, Mrs. Aumiller. She was enthusiastic, and made learning fun. She always made chemistry seem simple, so we learned to understand and appreciate it. My church family was also a big influence in my life through their prayers and encouragement.

### My education and training:

- B.S. in Chemistry, Spelman College
- M.S. in Industrial Engineering, University of Central Florida

### My career path:

- One summer with NASA SHARP
- Summer internship with the Bionetics Corporation in the Environmental Monitoring Laboratory for two summers.
- Chemist in the Microchemical Analysis Laboratory at NASA for ten years.

### What I like about my job:

I really enjoy the environment I work in. Every day is different.

### What I don't like about my job:

It takes me an hour to get to work. However, that is my choice because I want to remain close to my family.

### My advice to anyone interested in this occupation:

Make sure science or engineering is what you want to do. Apply for internships to gain experience, and to find out if you like the science or engineering career path.