Occupation: Telephone Engineer

What were your interests when you were at school?

Electronics, IT and Science

As a student were you able to take advantage of any STEM type activities outside the usual school timetable?
As a student I was not aware of any Stem activities. I did however take part in a challenge to create a working submarine as part of a project ran by BAE systems. This was a small team that was put together by our Electronics teacher and we had to present this in front of managers at BAE systems.

If so, how did this influence your career path?

I was always unsure which career path I wanted to take at school and was influenced more into my career path by my father who works within the company. Being an engineer was not something that was discussed much at school as part of a career path for females but once my job application was successful I realised how much my interests fitted within a career path and have being happily employed for nearly ten years.

What are your roles and responsibilities in your workplace now?

My current job role involves the installation and maintenance of IT related products for BT, this involves Broadband and Television services. I work within residential and business premises and I am currently training to learn other engineering roles for business systems. Previously I installed and maintained the telephone network.

Why did you decide to become an STEM ambassador?

I became a Stem ambassador as I felt that being a female engineer and the lack of information when I was at school, this could be a good way of relaying the message to help influence more young people and in particular young females into the engineering. This is still a very male dominated industry but I feel that there are many young females who can build a good career within engineering.

Also I feel it is a good way to promote the apprenticeship scheme as it has worked very well for me and feel that too many people feel that successful careers can only be made by further education in the form of degrees. Whilst I don't disagree, this is not suited for everyone and with enough hard work a successful career can be achieved other ways.

What do you feel are the positive outcomes of being a STEM Ambassador?

For yourself?
I have always enjoyed voluntary work and this was a good way to get involved and hopefully help young people. I feel that this will be rewarding and also may help me to achieve other aspirations within my company.

For the pupils taking part in the activity?
Give the pupils an insight into how a large company works and give support and advice to pupils wanting to know more about apprenticeships and engineering.

For the teaching staff accompanying the pupils?

Support teaching staff in answering any questions with regards to engineering within the workplace.

Which STEM activity have you enjoyed the most and why?
I am due to take part in my first Stem activity this week and I am really looking forward to this. I am new to the programme so I am still unsure what to expect but hopefully it will go well and I will participate in as many events as possible.

What was your role in this activity?

As above

Do you think being a STEM Ambassador has enhanced you career in anyway?
 Again as above, but I have always wanted to move my career more into a training role and help new recruits and apprentices so hopefully being a STEM ambassador will help to enhance my career if and when this opportunity comes about.

Do you have any advice for people who are considering becoming a STEM ambassador?
 Although I have not participated in any events at time of answering these questions, from what I have heard about the programme, I would definitely recommend it to colleagues and other people in different organisations. It is a great way to promote the line of business in which you work and given advice and support for young people and teachers. This is something I would have

liked at school when making very important decisions about a life's career path at such a young age.