

# STUDENT CENTER FOR SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT

## GUIDE FOR STEM CAREERS



Research

Health

Education

Leadership

Government

Industry

### WHAT CAREERS ARE RIGHT FOR YOU?

- Which **topics** do you like learning about?
- Do you want to be **hands-on** or **hands-off**?
- Do you want to work in the **field, lab, office, school, or somewhere else**?
- Do you like **teamwork** or prefer **individual** assignments?
- How much do you want to interface with the **public**?
- What **goals** keep you motivated even when day-to-day activities become difficult?

### NEIU ALUMNI GIVE ADVICE

- **Look for jobs early** and get interview practice
- **Pursue internships** in industry to gain experience - some interns are even given job offers!
- Consider getting relevant certifications in your field
- **Network** in-person and through LinkedIn
- **Reach out to NEIU alumni.** We are everywhere and can share job openings!
- **Be open minded.** You may be surprised by what ends up being a good fit for you
- **Apply directly to companies** when possible - you may get a higher salary
- **Don't be intimidated** if you don't meet all the qualifications. Companies may offer training to strong candidates.
- It helps to get your foot in the door at a company and ask about **options to advance** to positions you are more passionate about
- Research every company through LinkedIn, Glassdoor, or Indeed to find out about their culture and reviews

**Don't get discouraged! It can take several tries but each step gets you closer to your goals.**

# MANY NEIU ALUMNI HAVE TAKEN THE STEP FROM COLLEGE TO STEM CAREERS



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## WHAT ARE THEY SAYING NOW?

- Recent graduates can experience **culture shock** or **imposter syndrome** but this usually improves with time and support
- Some industries or jobs are fast-paced and it takes time to adjust
- **It is okay to make mistakes**
- Remember to ask for help or ask questions if you don't know how to do something. **Learning never stops!**
- You will have more **independence** but also more **responsibility**. You may need to set your own deadlines.
- Not every work culture is the right match, **learn what works for you.**

## BIOLOGY

- Collections Assistant at the Field Museum
- Laboratory Assistant at North Shore University Health System
- Medical Scribe at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
- High School Science Teacher at Chicago Tech Academy
- Research Associate at Baxter International, Inc.
- Wildlife Management Coordinator, Lincoln Park Zoo
- Research Technician at Northwestern University, School of Medicine

## CHEMISTRY

- Chemist at Deibel Laboratories (food safety field)
- Quality Control Lab Technician at BASF (chemical company)
- Analytical Development Chemist at Blistex, Inc.
- Biologist I, Abbott Laboratories
- Scientist II at BD
- Engineering Analytical Lab Technician at Honeywell
- Research & Development Scientist at Baxter

## ENVIRONMENTAL & EARTH SCIENCE

- Lab Technician at ECS Midwest LLC
- Research Technician at Micro Measurement Laboratories (MML)
- Laboratory Analyst at Belize Water Services, Ltd.
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technician at GTI Energy
- Environmental Consultant at ERM International Group, Ltd.
- Physical Scientist at the Environmental Protection Agency

# **AN NEIU STEM BACHELOR'S DEGREE TAKES PEOPLE PLACES**

## **MATHEMATICS**

- Product Support Analyst at Paylocity
- Actuarial Analyst Assistant at Gambia Health Solutions
- Data Management Analyst at J.P. Morgan Chase Investment Bank
- Development Data Associate at Erie Family Health Center
- High School Math Teacher at Roosevelt High School

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

- Chicago Volunteer Coordinator for Girls in the Game
- Parent Educator with ChildServ
- Team Leader for the Youth and Young Adult program at Thresholds
- Head Psychometrician in Neuropsychology Service at UIC
- Global Quality Assurance Specialist for AIG insurance
- Marketing & Communications Manager, National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists
- Director of Imerman Angels One-on-One Cancer Support
- Citywide Programs Manager for Girls in the Game
- Director of Admissions at Lake Park Center Nursing Home
- Program Assistant in the International Center at the Illinois Institute of Technology

## **PHYSICS**

- Full Stack Software Developer at Revature (IT Services and Consulting)
- Accelerator Operator at Fermilab
- Solutions Support Associate at Lumen Technologies

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

- Associate Developer at Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Software Engineering Associate at Accenture (consulting company)
- Software Engineer at Tata Consultancy Services
- Intermediate Software Developer at Diehl Metering
- Software Engineer at Relativity
- Full Stack Web Developer at Cook County Health
- Software Engineer at Walgreens Headquarters
- Software Developer at the Department of Veteran Affairs

## ALUMNI ADVICE ON JOB OFFERS

- When asked to provide a salary, **share a range**. Base that range on research that you do on a typical salary for that position on a site like Indeed or Glassdoor.
- Offer letters typically detail the salary and benefits, which can include payment or reimbursement for **continuing education** (either informal or degree programs, such as masters or Ph.D. programs).
- Most employers are open to **negotiation on the salary** and/or **benefits** of a job offer

## WHERE TO LOOK FOR JOBS

- **General job boards** like Indeed or LinkedIn
- **Field-specific job boards** can be found on many STEM association websites. Look for ones that match your interests! One example is [www.aaas.org/careers](http://www.aaas.org/careers) for the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- USA Jobs for federal jobs and internships
- **Look directly at company websites** for pages listing their open positions. Whenever possible apply through their website not Indeed or a recruiter.
- **Tap into your network!** Let people know you are looking for new positions and reach out to mentors and NEIU alumni.

## STEM ADVISING

The **Student Center for Science Engagement** offers holistic advising on a variety of topics to help you **identify and achieve** your career goals.



**Laura West, M.S., M.Ed.**

STEM Advisor

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**Contact us** to schedule an in-person or virtual appointment!

[SCSE@neiu.edu](mailto:SCSE@neiu.edu)

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