

OKLAHOMA NSF EPSCoR *Women in Science* CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 11, 2016  MABEE CENTER, TULSA



NSF AWARD NO. OIA-1301789

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PANEL SESSION

Participants' Bios

#WOMENINSCIENCE

PICTURE YOURSELF AS A...

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR

COMPUTER SCIENTIST

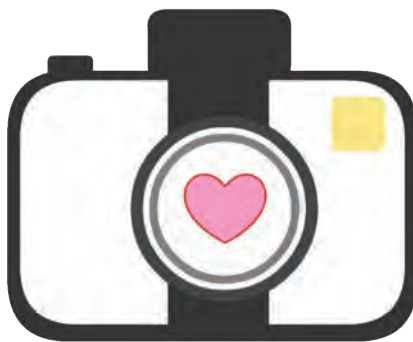
SEISMIC ANALYST/EARTHQUAKE RESEARCHER

ECONOMIST

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC TECHNOLOGIST

WILDLIFE ECOLOGIST



Look for our panelists during your Hands-on Science & Recruitment Fair Session!
They'll each be hosting a booth on the concourse, where they will be available
to answer questions one-on-one for conference attendees.



After the Interactive Panel Session...
Look for our panelists during your Hands-on Science & Recruitment Fair Session!
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WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST (BOOTH #11)

TRACY BOYER, Ph.D.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Tracy Boyer grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. In elementary school and high school she played basketball and went on backpacking, canoeing and caving trips. During her junior year of high school she was an exchange student in Ayvalik, Turkey through the American Field Service. These experiences sparked an interest in environmental issues at home and abroad.

Tracy earned an undergraduate degree in International Relations at Stanford University in California studying the environment and international development, a Master's Degree in Public Policy in Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, and a Ph.D. in Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota.

Tracy has been a professor of environmental economics in the Agricultural Economics Department at Oklahoma State University for the past twelve years. Her job includes teaching undergraduates and graduate students about environmental and natural resource economics and performing research. Her research involves valuing recreational uses of water in Oklahoma and how individuals and households can be persuaded to conserve and preserve Oklahoma's water and natural resources. She is currently a member of an Oklahoma EPSCoR climate variability research team that is funded by the National Science Foundation. Other projects have examined how protection of endangered species such as prairie chickens involves tradeoffs with wind power production. What she enjoys most about her career is that she is making a real difference in environmental public policy in Oklahoma.

Tracy spends a lot of time at home cooking funky ethnic food with her husband and daughter, Claire, and dog, Phoebe, a Bullmastiff. She enjoys kayaking in local Lake McMurry and the Illinois River.



Do you want to be an... *Economist?*



CAREER OVERVIEW

Every country has resources—people, land, raw materials, capital, and machinery—and economists study how those resources are distributed to create the goods that people buy, and the services people need or want. In their studies, economists monitor economic trends and collect data on things like energy costs, inflation, interest rates, exchange rates, business cycles, taxes, and employment levels. Based on their analysis of this data, they develop forecasts of economic activity so that businesses and governments can better plan for the future.

PERSONALITY TRAITS OF SOMEONE WHO IS SUCCESSFUL IN THE FIELD

Those considering a career as an economist should be able to pay attention to details because much time is spent on precise data analysis. They should have strong computer and quantitative skills, patience, and persistence. Good communication skills also are useful, as economists must be able to present their findings, both orally and in writing, in a clear, concise manner.

SUBJECTS TO STUDY IN HIGH SCHOOL

Geometry, algebra II, pre-calculus, calculus, English; if available, computer science, statistics, environmental science, business

HIGHER EDUCATION

Some entry-level positions for economists are available to those with a bachelor's degree, but higher degrees are required for many positions. Whether working in government, industry, research organizations, or consulting firms, economists with a bachelor's degree usually qualify for entry-level positions as a research assistant, for administrative or management trainee positions, or for various sales jobs. A master's degree usually is required to qualify for more responsible research and administrative positions. A Ph.D. is necessary for top economist positions in many organizations.

PROJECTED INCOME

Minimum Wage Worker (without a degree): \$15,080/yr.

U.S. Mean Annual Wage: \$48,320/yr.

Economist: \$95,710/yr.

PROJECTED JOB GROWTH (2012-2022)

Average (7% to 13%)



WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST (BOOTH #15)
DANA BRUNSON, Ph.D.
HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING CENTER DIRECTOR
ASSISTANT V.P. FOR RESEARCH CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Native Oklahoman Dana Brunson was raised just outside of Tulsa in the smaller town of Claremore. Growing up, she loved nature, music and science, and when her father brought home their first IBM personal computer, she discovered she also loved computing. She always knew she was destined to go to college, even though she hadn't quite figured out what area she wanted to pursue. Once she got to Oklahoma State University, she knew college was where she was meant to be, and she still feels this way today.

After earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in Mathematics from OSU, Dana went on to receive her Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Texas – Austin. In Austin, she loved teaching math classes and even played fiddle in a local band. Dana and her family returned to Oklahoma in 2003, and in 2007, she became the Director of the OSU High Performance Computing Center, where she was able to expand her knowledge of research, computing and administration. She never thought she'd end up in high performance computing, but she can't imagine a profession she would enjoy more.

Dana's job involves collaborating with researchers at OSU and others throughout the country to make sure people are receiving the high performance computing resources they need to conduct their research. She also helps lead several high performance computing organizations around the country, including Oklahoma's very own OneOklahoma Cyberinfrastructure Initiative (OneOCII). Dana believes you can never get started too early with computing, and, including teaching an undergraduate high performance computing course at OSU, she has also even visited a local preschool to talk about computing.

In her spare time, Dana and her husband and two children enjoy hanging out on their micro-farm just outside of Stillwater where they maintain a large permaculture garden and several hives of honeybees, as well as look after a flock of free-range chickens, a few cats and three Great Pyrenees dogs. Dana also enjoys learning about wild edible and medicinal plants that grow in the area.



Do you want to be a... *Computer Network Architect?*



CAREER OVERVIEW

Computers are an important part of our lives. We use computers to hold and process data, to control manufacturing factories, and to surf the Internet. We are all part of many different kinds of computer networks that are continually sharing information. The role of the computer network architect is to design, model, and evaluate computer networks so that they can share information seamlessly. This is an exciting career for those people who enjoy working with rapidly changing technology.

PERSONALITY TRAITS OF SOMEONE WHO IS SUCCESSFUL IN THE FIELD

A computer network architect must be able to reason, think critically, and enjoy developing original solutions to problems. Because they often deal with a number of tasks simultaneously, the ability to concentrate and pay close attention to detail is also important. Although computer specialists sometimes work independently, they frequently work in teams on large projects. As a result, they must be able to communicate effectively with computer personnel, such as programmers and managers, as well as with users or other staff who may have no technical computer background.

SUBJECTS TO STUDY IN HIGH SCHOOL

Computer science, algebra, geometry, algebra II, English; if available, business

HIGHER EDUCATION

For computer network architect positions, most employers seek applicants who have bachelor's degrees in computer science, information science, or management information systems (MIS). Employers increasingly prefer applicants with a master's degree in business administration (MBA) with a concentration in information systems, as more firms move their business to the Internet. For some computer network architects, such as webmasters, an associate's degree or certificate is sufficient, although more-advanced positions might require a computer-related bachelor's degree.

PROJECTED INCOME

Minimum Wage Worker (without a degree): \$15,080/yr.

U.S. Mean Annual Wage: \$48,320/yr.

Computer Network Architect: \$98,430/yr.

PROJECTED JOB GROWTH (2012-2022)

Faster than Average (14% to 20%)



WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST (BOOTH #26)
VANESSA CORMIER
WILDLIFE ECOLOGIST & EDUCATION SPECIALIST
OKLAHOMA AQUARIUM

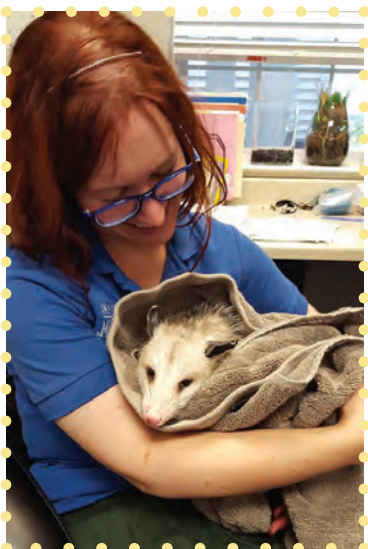
Vanessa Cormier, a native of Nova Scotia, moved to the United States with her family when she was only five years old. She got her start working with animals in a volunteer program called "Zoo Teens." That's where she fell in love with animals and conservation.

After volunteering for a few years as a Zoo Teen, Vanessa was hired by the Brevard Zoo, where she worked for six years. While working at the zoo, she attended the University of Florida and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. After completing her degree, Vanessa moved to Japan to teach English for two years in a small town called Kazusa that is located in the southern region of Nagasaki, Japan.

After returning to America four years ago, she joined the Oklahoma Aquarium as an education specialist. Vanessa enjoys teaching kids about marine life at the aquarium. Her favorite group of animals is the marine invertebrates and she has an unhealthy obsession over molts.

Vanessa also works with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife and Conservation March through April to participate in their paddlefish internship program. That gives her a good chance to spend time outside and have a hands-on role in local conservation.

In her free time Vanessa enjoys cooking and spending time with her two cats, Lola and Zelda.



Do you want to be a... *Zoologist or Wildlife Biologist?*



CAREER OVERVIEW

Zoologists and wildlife biologists study every aspect of wild animals—their origins, behaviors, diseases, habitats, life cycles, population structures, and genetics. They work in a wide variety of positions both indoors and outdoors. They may conduct research both in the field and in laboratories or other controlled settings, analyze data using computer models and statistics, and educate the public about their findings. Some zoologists and wildlife biologists are involved in conservation work, helping to understand and preserve at-risk populations of animals. They may also work to set up and maintain good environments for animals in nature preserves and zoos.

PERSONALITY TRAITS OF SOMEONE WHO IS SUCCESSFUL IN THE FIELD

A person entering the fields of zoologist or wildlife biology must have an intense interest in animals and good logic skills.

SUBJECTS TO STUDY IN HIGH SCHOOL

Biology, chemistry, physics, algebra, geometry, calculus, English; if available, environmental science, statistics

HIGHER EDUCATION

A bachelor's degree in a natural sciences field such as zoology, ecology, general biology, animal science, or wildlife biology is the minimum requirement for an entry-level position as a zoologist or wildlife biologist. Additional coursework in statistics, data modeling, and computer science are an advantage for zoologists and wildlife biologists who will be focusing on research and need good data-analysis skills. Because competition for jobs is high, a master's degree can be an advantage. Also, some employers require a master's degree for advancement beyond entry-level positions. A Ph.D. is required for most university-based positions, such as a professor in a zoology department.

PROJECTED INCOME

Minimum Wage Worker (without a degree): \$15,080/yr.

U.S. Mean Annual Wage: \$48,320/yr.

Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist: \$58,270/yr.

PROJECTED JOB GROWTH (2012-2022)

More Slowly than Average (3% to 6%)



WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST (BOOTH #75)
NOOR GHOUSE
SEISMIC ANALYST
OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Noor Ghouse grew up in northeast Ohio surrounded by trees, black squirrels, and no mountains. She became interested in pursuing a career in earthquakes after a long discussion with her father about current events in high school. Her father encouraged her to learn more about earthquakes after discussing an earthquake in the news. Afterwards, she researched the topic of earthquake processes in her spare time by visiting the USGS website whenever an earthquake was being covered in the news, researching historic earthquake events, and reading about their respective hazards and destruction.

Noor graduated from Stow-Munroe Falls High School in 2010 and spent her summer doing seismology research at Miami University. Her undergraduate career was spent balancing her seismology and geophysics research activities and the pursuit of her Bachelors of Science in Geology degree. One of those research projects was a 2012 internship analyzing the spatial and temporal patterns of the Middle American Subduction Zone at the Incorporated Research Institution for Seismology (IRIS) under Dr. Michael Brudzinski. Noor continued her research in the geophysics lab until graduating in May 2014.

After graduation, Noor joined the Oklahoma Geological Survey in July 2015 as a seismic analyst. Her duties consist of analyzing the earthquakes occurring throughout the state, conducting research from recent years in Oklahoma to observe seismic behavior with the rise of earthquakes throughout Oklahoma, and collaborating and consulting with researchers regarding the increased earthquake activity.

Although Noor is still on her journey to become a seismologist, her time at the OGS has given her the resources and opportunity to be a part of a major discussion in the geophysical community due to the rise in Oklahoman seismicity. Her passion and drive stems from working to contribute to the scientific community. She works diligently to assist in figuring out the cause and solutions of these events, from the first time she researched the cause of an earthquake in high school, to the day she ran from her home to her office on September 3rd, 2016, to locate the earthquake and assist the OGS and USGS as much as she could when a Mw 5.8 earthquake shook Oklahoma.

In her free time, Noor travels to visit family and friends, retreats back to nature, and visits mountains.



Do you want to be a... *Geoscientist?*



CAREER OVERVIEW

Geoscientists study the composition, structure, and other physical aspects of Earth. They study Earth's geologic past and present by using sophisticated instruments to analyze the composition of earth, rock, and water. Many geoscientists help to search for natural resources, such as groundwater, metals, and petroleum. Others work closely with environmental and other scientists to preserve and clean up the environment. Seismologists interpret data from seismographs and other geophysical instruments to detect earthquakes and locate earthquake-related faults.

PERSONALITY TRAITS OF SOMEONE WHO IS SUCCESSFUL IN THE FIELD

A Geoscientist must have curiosity, a love for strenuous outdoor work, an ability to visualize things in three dimensions, solve puzzles from just a few clues and have good interpersonal skills.

SUBJECTS TO STUDY IN HIGH SCHOOL

Chemistry, physics, biology, computer science, algebra, geometry, calculus; if available Earth science, statistics

HIGHER EDUCATION

A bachelor's degree is adequate for a few entry-level positions, but most geoscientists need a master's degree in geology or earth science. A master's degree is the preferred educational requirement for most entry-level research positions in private industry, federal agencies, and state geological surveys. A Ph.D. is necessary for most high-level research and college teaching positions. Computer skills are essential for prospective geoscientists; students who have experience with computer modeling, data analysis and integration, digital mapping, remote sensing, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will be the most prepared entering the job market. Knowledge of the Global Positioning System (GPS)—a locator system that uses satellites—has also become essential. Some employers seek applicants with field experience, so a summer internship is often helpful.

PROJECTED INCOME

Minimum Wage Worker (without a degree): \$15,080/yr.

U.S. Mean Annual Wage: \$48,320/yr.

Computer Network Architect: \$89,910/yr.

PROJECTED JOB GROWTH (2012-2022)

Faster than Average (14% to 20%)

Source & credit: Sciencebuddies.org



WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST (BOOTH #31)

LYNN LEFFEW

ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC TECHNOLOGIST

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (OSUIT), ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC TECHNOLOGIES

Lynn Leffew grew up in Copemish, Michigan. As a young girl, Lynn worked on cars, snowmobiles, and other machines with her dad and brother. She knew early on that she enjoyed working with her hands and building things that were useful. When her brother experienced a snowmobile accident that crushed his ankle, the doctors suggested the injury might result in amputation. This event made a powerful impact on Lynn, and she decided to become an orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) technician.

As an orthotic and prosthetic technician, Lynn designs and fabricates prosthetic limbs and orthopedic braces. She works in the lab using plaster, laminates, drill presses, saws and other equipment to build the orthotic and prosthetic devices. Being an orthotic and prosthetic technician is a hands-on health care profession, where she can be creative and compassionate and change the lives of others every day. Being an orthotic and prosthetic technician offers everything that she wants in a career: working with her hands, building things, and helping people.

After working in the industry, Lynn has returned to work as an Assistant Lab Instructor for the Orthotic & Prosthetic Technologies program at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (OSUIT) in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. She is responsible for supervising program interns, assisting students with fabricating the prosthetic and orthotic projects for their courses, and maintaining the lab equipment and facilities. Lynn is a 2014 graduate of the O&P program herself, and she has an Associate in Science in Secondary Pre-Education and an Associate in Applied Science in Orthotic and Prosthetic Technologies.

In her personal life, Lynn enjoys spending time with her children, granddaughter, and animals including a rabbit, dog, cat, and lizards. She hopes to one day add a sloth to that list of animals. She makes jewelry and works in her green house in her free time. One of her favorite pastimes is walking through the woods around her house looking for berries... that is, as long as she isn't chased up a tree by any wildlife.

Lynn encourages young women to go for what they want in life and to not be afraid to get their hands dirty along the way!



Do you want to be an... *Orthotic & Prosthetic Technologist?*



CAREER OVERVIEW

The field of orthotics and prosthetics involves designing and fitting artificial limbs or braces. It is a component of the health care field, and individuals working as either an orthotist or prosthetist usually must be certified and licensed. Although related, the work of an orthotist and prosthetist is not the same. A prosthetist designs, creates and fits artificial limbs on patients who are missing a part or all of a limb. An orthotist, on the other hand, fits braces and other devices to enhance the movement and function of a patient's limbs or spine. An orthotist/prosthetist can make and fit both prosthetics and orthotics. The American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists states that, regardless of whether they work only in one area of the field, most practitioners are referred to as 'O&P Practitioners.'

PERSONALITY TRAITS OF SOMEONE WHO IS SUCCESSFUL IN THE FIELD

A person entering the field of orthotic and prosthetic technology must be interested in helping other people.

HIGHER EDUCATION

To work as an orthotist or prosthetist, an individual must graduate from an accredited O&P program and complete a one-year residency, after which the individual may sit for the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics exam. Board certification is available in either or both fields and is required in order to practice as an orthotist or prosthetist. Orthotist and prosthetist practitioner degree programs are available at the bachelor's and master's degree levels.

PROJECTED INCOME

Minimum Wage Worker (without a degree): \$15,080/yr.

U.S. Mean Annual Wage: \$48,320/yr.

Orthotic and Prosthetic Technologist: \$39,000/yr.

PROJECTED JOB GROWTH (2012-2022)

More Slowly than Average (7%)

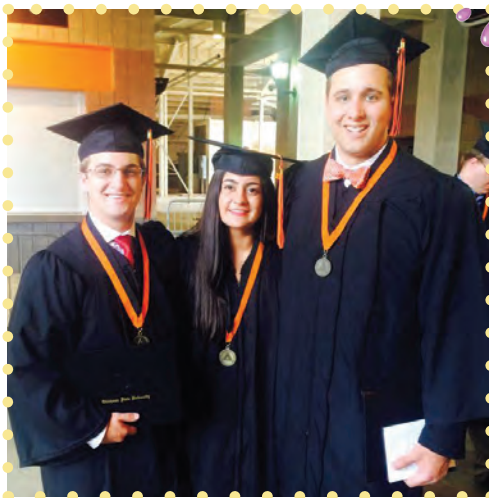


WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST (BOOTH #63)
CAROLINA VEGA RECALDE
MECHANICAL ENGINEER
TINKER AIR FORCE BASE

Carolina Vega Recalde is twenty three years old and grew up in Cali, Colombia. In 2005 she moved to Red Oak, Oklahoma, a small town in the southeastern part of the state. She attended the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics (OSSM) in Oklahoma City during her junior and senior years of high school. Attending OSSM furthered Carolina's interest in becoming an engineer, and she established a committee to hold the first Engineering Day at the school during her time there.

Carolina went on to earn a double major undergraduate degree in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Oklahoma State University in four years. She graduated in May 2015. In October of the same year, she joined the Air Force 76 SMXG Maintenance Software group at Tinker Air Force Base, where she now works full-time. After receiving her security clearance, which is currently in-process, Carolina will join the B2OSS Team which does the software maintenance of the B2 stealth bomber that was developed by Northrop Grumman. While she is awaiting her clearance, she assists the OB team, in another squadron, with their webpage testing and test writing.

Carolina enjoys spending time in her apartment cooking, sleeping or watching Netflix. She also enjoys dancing, hanging out with her family, exercising, and traveling, especially back home to Colombia.



Do you want to be a... *Mechanical Engineer?*



CAREER OVERVIEW

Mechanical engineers are part of your everyday life, designing the spoon you used to eat your breakfast, your breakfast's packaging, the flip-top cap on your toothpaste tube, the zipper on your jacket, the car, bike, or bus you took to school, the chair you sat in, the door handle you grasped and the hinges it opened on, and the ballpoint pen you used to take your test. Virtually every object that you see around you has passed through the hands of a mechanical engineer. Consequently, their skills are in demand to design millions of different products in almost every type of industry.

PERSONALITY TRAITS OF SOMEONE WHO IS SUCCESSFUL IN THE FIELD

Engineers should be creative, inquisitive, analytical, mathematical, and detail oriented, with a hands-on understanding of the world. They should be able to work as part of a team and to communicate well, both orally and in writing. Communication abilities are becoming increasingly important as engineers frequently interact with specialists in a wide range of fields outside engineering.

SUBJECTS TO STUDY IN HIGH SCHOOL

Biology, chemistry, physics, computer science, geometry, algebra II, pre-calculus, calculus; if available, statistics, applied technology

HIGHER EDUCATION

You generally need at least a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering to enter this field. It takes four or five years to earn a bachelor's degree in engineering. Some programs include periods of work experience along with formal classes. Many engineers go on to obtain advanced degrees in a specialized field of engineering or business administration.

PROJECTED INCOME

Minimum Wage Worker (without a degree): \$15,080/yr.

U.S. Mean Annual Wage: \$45,230/yr.

Mechanical Engineer: \$79,230/yr.

PROJECTED JOB GROWTH (2010-2020)

Average (7%-13%)



WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST (BOOTH #60)

FRANCIA THOMPSON

SPECIAL AGENT & CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR

CRIME SCENE UNIT

OKLAHOMA STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Francia Thompson was born in Mexico and came to the United States at the age of eight. She grew up in a small southwest Oklahoma town where she graduated from high school. While in high school she joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard. After graduating from boot camp, Francia began college at the University of Oklahoma, where she was involved in numerous college organizations and held many offices, including president of the Hispanic American Student Association, chairperson of the Miss Hispanic OU Pageant, and others. She graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Sociology and Criminology from the University of Oklahoma.

Francia began her career with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) in 2005; she is currently a Special Agent in the OSBI Crime Scene Unit. During her career, Francia has worked to help solve hundreds of crimes in the state. She has worked with local, state and federal agencies to bring justice to victims and their families. She recently obtained her Crime Scene Investigator Certification from the International Association of Identification (IAI), and she also received certification on the agency's new FARO 340 scanner--one of only four scanners in the state. Francia assists other law enforcement agencies throughout the state with Spanish interviews and document translations. She has received numerous awards from the OSBI including red feathers, team awards, and in 2010 she was named the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Agent of the Year. She also teaches Crime Scene Investigation Techniques and Beginning Spanish for Law Enforcement courses for law enforcement agencies throughout the state, and enjoys bringing special presentations to students across Oklahoma.

Francia loves spending time with her family, which includes her husband and two daughters. In her spare time she likes to be with her family, playing games, watching movies, visiting the zoo, and visiting new places. She also likes to bake, eat, and plan events and parties.



Do you want to be a... *Forensic Science Technician?*



CAREER OVERVIEW

Guilty or not guilty? The fate of the accused in court lies with the evidence gathered at the crime scene. The job of the forensic science technician is to gather evidence and use scientific principles and techniques to make sense of it. It can be a grueling and graphic job, but very rewarding. If you like the idea of using science to help deliver justice, then you should investigate this career.

PERSONALITY TRAITS OF SOMEONE WHO IS SUCCESSFUL IN THE FIELD

Forensic science technicians should have curiosity, personal integrity, good speaking skills, good reasoning and critical thinking skills, and must enjoy solving puzzles. Communication skills are important because forensic science technicians are often required to report their findings both orally and in writing. In addition, technicians should be able to work well with others. Because computers often are used in research and development laboratories, technicians should also have strong computer skills, especially in computer modeling. Organizational ability, an eye for detail, and skill in interpreting scientific results are important as well, as are a high mechanical aptitude, attention to detail, and analytical thinking.

SUBJECTS TO STUDY IN HIGH SCHOOL

Biology, chemistry, physics, algebra, geometry, algebra II, calculus, English; if available, computer science

HIGHER EDUCATION

Forensic science positions typically require a bachelor's degree to work in the field. Knowledge and understanding of legal procedures also can be helpful. Degree options: bachelor's degree program in forensic science; bachelor's degree in a natural science with an emphasis on forensic science or criminology; bachelor's degree with an emphasis in a specialty area, such as criminology, pathology, jurisprudence, investigation, odontology, toxicology, or forensic accounting.

PROJECTED INCOME

Minimum Wage Worker (without a degree): \$15,080/yr.

U.S. Mean Annual Wage: \$45,230/yr.

Forensic Science Technician: \$52,180/yr.

PROJECTED JOB GROWTH (2010-2020)

Faster than Average (14% to 20%)