



# APPRENTICESHIP SPOTLIGHT

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## CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING RESEARCH LABORATORY CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS



**KENNETH**  
APPRENTICE



**DR. KATHRYN GUY**  
MENTOR

### SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING APPRENTICE PROGRAM

## WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN THIS FIELD?

**KENNETH:** I am fascinated by all areas of science, and I love working with my hands. The prospect of getting to work in a lab on real research made this an opportunity I could not turn down. Once I started working in the lab, Dr. Guy told me about the practical applications of her work. Seeing how the research had the potential to benefit soldiers, I realized how important research is in general because of its applications.

**DR. GUY:** Two things I really like are colors and cooking. Chemistry seemed a great way to combine both. From there, my interests homed in on how to impact the world in positive ways, especially through preserving our natural resources.

## WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE MENTOR RELATIONSHIP?

**KENNETH:** After my internship, I had a much better understanding of the work of the Army Corps of Engineers and its partners. By working with Dr. Guy, I realized many more people than soldiers make the Army effective and powerful.

**DR. GUY:** Mentorship reminds me why I got into STEM in the first place. For a lot of students, this is their first time in a real laboratory, so I get to relive that time of discovery through their eyes.

## ADVICE TO A STUDENT, JUST BEGINNING TO CONSIDER A CAREER IN SCIENCE?

**KENNETH:** I have not made it all the way through school yet, but I would suggest that you decide if you will love what you are going to do. Picture yourself waking up and working in that field every day, and decide if that job would excite you every day.

**DR. GUY:** Get out there and explore! There are tons of great summer opportunities in STEM. Take advantage of them. What you learn in classes is great, but science in the real world is about so much more. Even if classes bore you, you may find something exciting in hands-on learning.