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APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (REAP)

### HOW DOES YOUR JOURNEY HELP OR INSPIRE OTHERS?

So much can change over time. I am originally from Germany and in 10th grade I decided to stop studying English because I hated it. Now I teach in English every day, and actually live in an English-speaking country. I've had a similar experience in the sciences. I started out as a synthetic chemist, switched to natural products chemistry and now I work more and more in biochemistry and analytical chemistry.

### WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE MENTOR RELATIONSHIP THAT YOU FIND/FOUND MOST BENEFICIAL, INSPIRING, OR MOTIVATING?

It is so important to build a strong relationship with a student and demonstrate that nobody is perfect. My mentees leave understanding that many experiments have to be repeated or "re-researched," that we should not give up immediately, that everybody brings something to the table and that we always do our best work as a team.

### WHAT WOULD BE YOUR MOST SAGE ADVICE TO A STUDENT, JUST BEGINNING TO CONSIDER A CAREER IN SCIENCE?

Do not settle on a specific field too early. Things are always changing rapidly. Building general skills is most important. A broad education is necessary, so focus broadly on math, physics, chemistry and biology for as long as you can.

### WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR YOUR INDUSTRY?

To create new visions, be a productive scientist, and inspire the next generation of science and scientists, how vital is a deep and thorough understanding of mathematics, statistics, etc.? Could I be a scientist even if I have some fear of mathematics? Math is getting more and more important. There might be a few fields where you can get by without but having a working understanding of mathematics will never hurt you.

### WHY DOES THE WORLD NEED SCIENTISTS?

We need scientists so we have access to biased information. We have way too much of that in everyday life, particularly in politics.