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Intro

This is the Best of the WWEST, inspiring women with real stories. Hosted by Westcoast Women in



interview, a new sales rep, and being questioned on why they work, what they do and what they enjoy. It's been really rewarding to hear that they really love what they're doing and are, you know, they enjoy their jobs, and they believe in what we're trying to do. So I would say that's probably my proudest accomplishment.

VANESSA

Very cool. So you mentioned in the past kind of people that helped you get where you are, or mentored you. But what would you say inspired you to pursue a career in STEM?

CARLYN

brothers. I'm the only girl. That's fine. I'm just gonna keep doing what I'm doing. Because I enjoy what I'm doing. Yeah, um, but it definitely exists. Like, out of all my girl friends in school, I was, you know, I always felt different for sure because of what I enjoyed doing. And I think there were definitely times in university, you know, you're walking into a class or tutorial session, and there's 15 of you. And you're the only female I mean, you notice those kinds of things. You notice being a minority. But I was able to, most of the time, ignore that.

VANESSA

That's great. I mean, I think having that supportive family environment absolutely helps. It's another thing we hear on the podcast that even if you have these trials and tribulations, shall we say going on in your career, as long as you have that supportive foundation and family, it's something to fall back on and a place to even just vent.

CARLYN

Yeah. And I think once I actually started university, then, you know, then I found that there were females in engineering, and you do definitely kind of recognize, okay, I'm not the only one. And these people are cool, too, and we're here to succeed. And you know, you kind of form a bit of a family there. So it becomes less of a big deal when you just find others, like you.

VANESSA

This actually segues maybe quite nicely into my next question, which is about how your undergraduate or graduate studies helped mold your career path. And what the experience was like for you in university.

CARLYN

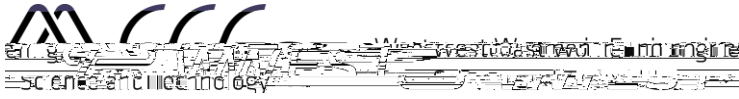
Sure, my university experience was pretty great. Like I said, I didn't really know what engineering was when I first started. So I shifted into it in my second year, I always worked part time. And the idea of starting university and having to do seven classes per semester was just like, oh, my gosh, this is too intense. But once I got there and started, you know, in the program, it was the one great thing about it for one of the great things is all the project work you have to do, which means you have to start collaborating right away and meeting people, and you kind of really quickly form a clan of friends that stick by your side through the whole degree and are really supportive. And I don't think I could have done that degree on my own. And I'm still really good friends with them to this day. So I think that definitely, the project work is where you get to be creative, and you know, build things. And yeah, learn outside of books. And that definitely influenced my entrepreneurial path. Yeah. And I think that for sure influenced where I am today.

VANESSA

That's really cool. I had the same experience in undergrad, I was like, collaboration is the way to go. I love it. Do you have any tips or tricks for students who are in your field?

CARLYN

Well, I would say, so I have a friend who does a lot of mentoring engineering students and talks about the fact that they're overwhelmed and concerned about, about certain things and things that I didn't really focus on. And so I think the one thing, keep trying to find things that you enjoy doing, and also take note of the things that you really don't. Grades are important, but they're not the be all and end all I did well in school, but I was never the top of the class by any means. And for some people, that's what their goal was just to be, you know, A+'s all the way. I always just decided, well, I'm never going to



work for a company that only wants to hire people because they have straight A's because I wouldn't like working there. I want to work for a company that wants people that are maybe just a bit different. Just be focused on different things, or value more than just grades. So I think it's important to recognize why you're going to school and make sure you feel good about that why. And just recognize that you may not know all the opportunities that are out there at the time that you're going through school. So just try to enjoy it, soak it in and then try to find work afterwards that aligns with what you enjoy doing.

VANESSA

Totally, that is really great advice. Love it. And I can tell that you're you know, you're very passionate about what you're doing and what you love and that kind of thing about the work that you're doing the people you work with, but what would you say is your favorite thing about your field?

VANESSA

Nice. That's really cool. I think it would be really fun to work in an organization that does that. So that's awesome. Yeah, and kind of along these lines, in terms of what you're doing with, I guess, would you call it I guess, waterfront rescue? And I don't know if you'd call it aquatics, or, I don't know exactly what the general term would be, but how do you see that field and the research in that field sort of changing in the future or what direction it's going in?

CARLYN

So, I would say it's more search and rescue because aquatics usually brings in pools and that's not the environment. But that's okay, that's a typical thing, and we'll just kind of spin people off into a different direction. I, to be honest, it's a field that new technology has been slow to come to. And I think that's why it's a bit of a pocket where we could fill a void and help give something, give tools to smaller groups that might not be able to afford, you know, \$100,000 devices, or, you know, they're not, it's kind

Planning is not one of my strong suits, which is funny because I'm leading the company. So I'm okay at that planning.

VANESSA

That's why you have other people that help you. Yeah, no, it's all good.

CARLYN

Yeah, no, I mean, to be honest, the only thing I plan on is continuing to learn. So taking opportunities when they come my way, trying to help and advocate for others who are going to be falling back before



experienced and you learn from your mistakes as you go. So what I mean, what you can handle now is a lot more than you could handle as a twelve year old and as a five year old. So the same thing happens in your career. You can't, as a six-year-old, you couldn't picture what you would be able to handle as a twelve-year-old. But as a twelve-year-old, you can look back and see the difference. I think it's true for your career. So I think in that way, I just constantly keep an open mind about, okay, let's just keep learning, keep putting one foot in front of the other. And then sooner or later, you'll start hitting milestones, and you'll be able to look back and gain more confidence about continuing forward.

VANESSA







