



Attracting Young SMA Professionals

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Hardware Quality Engineer

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Agenda

- Background
- Attraction to Mission Assurance
- Repel to Mission Assurance
- Summary

Background

- Industrial Engineering Health System Degree
 - Northern Illinois University Dekalb, Illinois (2008-2013)
- Master of Business Administration
 - North Central College Naperville, Illinois (2014-2016)
- Current Position
 - Hardware Quality Engineer at Ball Aerospace
- Previous Positions
 - Quality System Auditor at Ball Aerospace
 - Quality Assurance Engineer at Trelleborg Sealing Solutions
 - Operational Development Engineer at Trelleborg Sealing Solutions



Attraction to Mission Assurance

- **Quality Engineering**
 - “A quality engineer is responsible for making sure that engineering and manufacturing processes are performed correctly using the right tools, materials and processes.”
 - Aligned with my background and experience.
 - After my first internship, I knew I wanted to be a quality engineer
 - This was a step up in my career
- **Mission Assurance**
 - “Mission Assurance is a full life-cycle engineering process to identify and mitigate design, production, test, and field support deficiencies threatening mission success.”
 - In my pervious role, I never got to experience a full life-cycle engineering process. It was an interesting process to learn
 - Career Flexibility and Professional Exposure



Attraction to Mission Assurance *(continued)*



- **Challenging Work**
 - When at my previous company, I began to get bored and wasn't stimulated.
 - Now I am challenged and learn something new everyday. No problem is ever the same.
- **Space Products**
 - Knowing that the end product I'm supporting is going to be in space
 - Exciting!
- **Exciting Opportunities**
 - Many positions and roles within mission assurance.
 - Company Resource Groups such as Women's Ball Resource Group



Repel to Mission Assurance

- Coming from a manufacturing plant who made seals and bearings to an aerospace company having no “aerospace” experience was a challenge
 - A whole new standard to learn (AS9100)
 - New practices
- Overwhelming at Times
 - Multiple projects going though
 - Overtime/Long Hours
- Adversity
 - Entry Level Engineer vs. Senior Engineer
 - Being the “defense”





Summary

- Working in Mission Assurance aligned with my career growths.
- Challenging Work.
- Exciting Opportunities.
- There were minor draw backs to working in Mission Assurance



Questions?