



## **INCOSE Spotlight on Stephanie Chiesi, CSEP**

Interviewed by Sandy Young, [info@incose.org](mailto:info@incose.org)

Name: Stephanie Chiesi, CSEP

Title: Principal Systems Engineer

Organization: Raytheon

Place of Birth: New Jersey, USA

Current Residence: Tucson, Arizona, USA

Domain: Aerospace

Studied in college: Aeronautics and astronautics, biology

Year joined INCOSE: 2010

Roles in INCOSE: SOARizona chapter past-president; first class, INCOSE Leadership Institute, INCOSE events committee finance chair

Years in systems engineering: 15

### **1. What is your favorite part of being a systems engineer?**

My favorite part of being a systems engineer is the broad view that I have over the overall system and understanding the sensitivities, impact analyses and trades that go into developing an effective solution. I really enjoy using system models to be most effective at this part of the job and to provide quantitative results and solutions.

### **2. What is your least favorite part of being a systems engineer?**

My least favorite part is when other engineers or project team members think that all systems engineers do is write requirements, hand them over as a document and then walk away until it is time for verification. There is a lot more to the job than documentation.

### **3. What project/accomplishment are you most proud of in your career?**

I would say to date I am most proud of my systems engineering and leadership efforts on delivering the environmental control and life support systems tubing for the Orion exploration flight test vehicle. There were a lot of interfaces and a lot of both technical and non-technical challenges to overcome, but the hardware my team delivered all fit on the first integration efforts and performed well on the flight.

### **4. Why did you apply for INCOSE's Leadership Institute? What have you learned so far?**

I applied because it was a great supplement to a program that I was finishing at the time at Raytheon Missile Systems for advancing more women as technical leaders in their fields. While I had some experience in program management, I very much want to continue to grow as a technical leader to have an impact on technical discoveries and evolution. So far in the Leadership Institute I have learned a great deal about the roles that a technical leader is expected to fulfill and what kind of skills that requires.

### **5. What do you like to do outside of work?**

I have a lot of hobbies outside of work and with my family. My husband and I love to ballroom dance and we compete as well. We also enjoy running (often with our dog), bowling, gaming and travel. I really enjoy working on crafts too, such as making costumes, sewing, knitting and crochet. Overall though, I'm a true nerd through and through – so you'll see me wearing Star Wars logo clothing and jewelry quite a bit to show my nerd pride!