



INCOSE Spotlight on Stephanie Chiesi, CSEP

Interviewed by Sandy Young, 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!