



Alumni Spotlight

Ms. Rebecca Maddox



Rebecca (Mantecon) Maddox received a B.S. in Industrial & Systems Engineering from San José State University in 2013 and continued at SJSU to get an M.S. in ISE in 2015. While working on her master's degree she also worked as a Teaching Associate for the ISE capstone (Senior Design Project) courses. Under the leadership of Dr. Freund, this was her first experience in project management: scoping out projects with various host companies, defining key deliverables and milestones for each project, and meeting weekly with each student team to mentor, instruct, review, and analyze data, culminating in their final presentation.

After leaving SJSU, Rebecca worked for Juniper Networks as a Quality Processes Engineer focusing on data analysis and metrics reporting for the Manufacturing Operations team until mid-2018, when she joined Applied Materials. In her current role, as a Technical Program Manager for Applied Materials, the projects and programs she manages are related to process improvements for obsolescence management. She drives change by facilitating a collaborative, problem-solving environment for Engineering and Operations teams. She prides herself in being a knowledgeable resource for teammates and coworkers, especially in explaining how high-level processes relate to the individual function and role. Combined, these professional experiences have provided opportunities to gain perspective on product life cycles, supply chain and operations, all the while maintaining the analytical lens of an engineering team. This holistic view allows her to contribute to the organization's strategic plan.

At Applied Materials, Rebecca was selected to participate in the Women in Engineering Talent Development Program (WETDP): a 2-year program dedicated to advance the career of women in engineering who have demonstrated a drive to grow their career. The program offers workshops and courses led by internal and external speakers, and provides a mentoring framework, that includes various networking and conference opportunities. Rebecca has been participating

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Rebecca Maddox, cont.

in the program virtually since Jan. 2021. She is looking forward to new material for the year and graduating at the end of 2022.

Throughout her career, Rebecca has realized a few recurring themes (she likes finding patterns!). Process flow and value stream mapping to enable process improvement and change management are her passions, as well as training and coaching other team members. Another point of emphasis is finding the balance between the harder, technical skills and the soft skills of communication, uncovering motivating factors, and utilizing empathy to truly understand the stakeholders' needs. Currently, she's working on her storytelling skills to increase visibility of her engineering teammates' accomplishments for internal recognition such as additional project funding and promotions.

Outside of work, Rebecca enjoys spending time on California's Central Coast and Hawaii, and volunteering with organizations that help the homeless and homeless youth in Downtown San Jose like Opening Doors and StandUp for Kids Silicon Valley.

Fun fact: Rebecca has not ventured far from the SJSU campus; she can see the school from her couch!