CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR SERIES

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How a Chemical Engineering Degree Fueled the Multi-Career

ABSTRACT: The Chemical Engineering degree is perhaps one of the most fascinating and one of the most challenging degrees to choose from. Grounding students in the fundamentals of thermodynamics, chemically reacting flows, controls theory, mathematics, and more, it provides a solid basis for solving problems across a broad range of scientific and engineering fields.

As Linda entered the University of Washington's Chemical Engineering Program to earn her undergraduate degree, she'd imagined she'd work for 3M, P&G, or Chevron, from graduation until retirement. What she discovered was that she was prepared to achieve advanced degrees (a Masters in Chem E from Florida, and a PhD in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the UW), and to work on exciting projects she hadn't imagined. From entering live Nuclear Reactors, designing Supersonic Airplanes, Rockets, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (drones), to being part of the Cloud Computing revolution, all of this was enabled with a start here in Chem E.

BIOGRAPHY: Linda Hedges is a Principal Solutions Architect for Amazon Web Services. Her job involves the development of high performance computing on Amazon's cloud computer. With 25 plus years of experience, Linda Hedges' career has focused on state-of-the-art computing particularly in the area of Computational Fluid Dynamics analysis and automation. She has extensive management and project management experience, achieving the position of President of Stark Aerospace's engineering division. She held the position of Associate Technical Fellow while at the Boeing Company. While at Blue Origin, she developed CFD methods for rocket vehicle and propulsion development. This included reacting hypersonic aerodynamics, combusting thrust chambers, complex turbomachinery, and full-vehicle flow simulations incorporating propulsive flow interactions. Linda Hedges obtained a PhD in Aeronautics and Astronautics from University of Washington in 1991, a Masters degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Florida, and a BSChE from UW.

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