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Why did you become a scientist?

I like solving problems, particularly problems that people care about (like air quality in Utah). In high-school I realized the need to have a career that would support me and my family, so I chose engineering.

What do you study for DUST²? Why is this important?

I use low-cost sensors to understand where dust comes from and where it goes. My team and I have put sensors on buildings, school athletic fields, and even drones to take measurements of pollution in Salt Lake City and around Utah. Understanding where dust and pollution are can help people take care of their health.

What do you do day-to-day in your work?

I spend part of my day meeting with students and teaching class, which is generally fun. I spend part of my time organizing research projects. Being a professor is a lot like running a small business. I have to find money, hire and manage people, and hopefully do some fun research.

What is your favorite part of what you do?

I like seeing my students succeed.

What advice do you have for students interested in science?

It is never too late. I took a non-traditional path to my PhD, and I think the somewhat random skills I developed along the way helped me.



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