

NWS14-2014-000142

Abstract for an Invited Paper
for the NWS14 Meeting of
the American Physical Society

The Many Paths Possible with a Physics Degree

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Obtaining a degree in physics appears to be an excellent step in the path to finding a fulfilling career in a variety of professional endeavors. As someone with a Ph.D. in physics, I will present on my own path that has led me to directing a 12-person team in science education with partners around the country. My own career path can be understood as a case study for one possible path towards science education starting with a physics degree. I will share how physics has helped me make connections in unusual places. I will also share lessons I have learned about becoming a science educator, manager, and director. I will share a few stories of finding many fellow physics majors in many different careers: a CEO of an electric company in Michigan, the CEO of the Pixar Animation studios, a Wall Street stock market analyst, an economist, and several educators at science museums. In addition to this personal story, I will include references to results of excellent studies from the American Institute of Physics (AIP) Statistical Research Center, which publishes and analyzes data on education and employment in physics. And finally, I will also share how to find free and peer reviewed NASA education resources coming from the NASA physics education community.