



To Be
or
Not to Be...

A
Geek!

A Presentation by
Cinda Lautenschlegar



Mechanical Engineering

- Only deaf female enrolled in engineering:
 - One female instructor
 - Often the only deaf in class
 - Alienated and often worked projects solo but...
- Graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering in 1987 from the Rochester Institute of Technology:
 - 1 of 4 women (of over dozens of women entering major)
 - 1 of 2 deaf





Why Engineering?

- Realism – what were my options?
- Growth field
- Challenging

If I weren't deaf...

I would If not be an engineer today



9 to 5

- Offered a job with IBM Corporation
Kingston, NY
 - Worked as a Thermal Design
Engineer on IBM's first air-cooled
mainframe
 - Only female and deaf in the
Department

Thermal Design Engineering

- The 9121 Series – the cutting edge in air cooled technology. Predecessors were water cooled!
 - Became responsible for the TCM Board Design
 - Duties expanded to include all components within “Liberty”



Think

TCM, board, and heatsink



Photos from Computer Museum

1,400 Watts



CT Dept of Environmental Protection



Working for Clean Air: 1996 – Present
Air Pollution Control Engineer



Empowerment

- Wrested control of interpreter purchasing from the financial officer:
 - Improved coverage
 - No longer had to justify need for interpreters
- Also met with interpreting agency (state) to request same interpreters – no time to retrain new interpreters



Working for the People of Connecticut

A public job – a public forced to work with a deaf engineer:

- Meetings with companies, consultants, lawyers
- Interacting with the people of CT (concerned citizens, etc)
- Teaching workshops
- Testifying at hearings
- “Open Door”



Air Pollution Control

- The Clean Air Act of 1970 and the Clean Air Act Amendment of 1990:
 - Provisions to regulate Criteria Pollutants
 - New Source Review Permits, Title IV, & Title V
 - Air Toxics – over 45 air toxic rules currently promulgated
 - Making an inventory – air quality
 - Air quality improvements
 - Air visibility improvements



My Deafness

Is a gift

Happiness Working for Clean Air

