

# *Deaf Women in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering*

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Counterfeit Specialist  
U.S. Secret Service

## *Interest*

- Took biology and chemistry classes in high school- became interested because of great teacher
- Did very well in science and mathematics
- Decided to pursue chemistry as a major in college

## *Education and Work Background*

- In college, interned during summers at
  - NIH (*National Institutes of Health*)
  - National Science Foundation- Duke University/University of North Carolina
  - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms' Forensic Science Laboratory
- B.A. in chemistry from Gallaudet University

## *Education and Work Background*

- Worked as Forensic Chemist Technician at Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms' Forensic Science Laboratory for 5 years
- M.S.F.S. (*Master of Science in Forensic Science*) from George Washington University
- Worked as Document Analyst Technician at U.S. Secret Service for year and half
- Currently Counterfeit Specialist at U.S. Secret Service for over year

## My Job as a Counterfeit Specialist

- Examine genuine and counterfeit U.S. notes using forensic science
- Train local, state, and federal law enforcement, and commercial banks domestically and internationally how to detect counterfeit notes
- Testify as witness expert in court

## As Deaf Female Scientist

### What's Rewarding:

- Accomplishing my career goals
- Working with great group of people
- Have great supervisor who is very involved with my needs as a deaf employee
- Have dedicated interpreter five days a week
- Teach and train people about counterfeit notes! And most of the time my audience is hearing individuals!

## Challenges Encountered in Workplace

- Communication
  - a) How do we communicate with hearing co-workers?
    1. One to one
    2. Meetings and Presentations
  - b) Using Interpreters:
    1. Are they qualified?
    2. Is the Code of Ethics enough?
    3. What security clearance do needed for job?
    4. Who pays for interpreters or where does the employer find funds?

## What to do?

- Interviews: show them an individual who happens to be deaf (your personality) and that you aren't that difficult to communicate with.
- Meetings to educate them about you and how to work with you. Allay their concerns how you and the employees will communicate.

## What to expect working in a scientific, mathematics, or engineering workplace?

- Expect the unexpected- new challenges or situation will to come up about your abilities as a deaf person. I experience this weekly.
- Expect to always be educating hearing people about you and how to work with you over, over, and over again.
- Be confident in who you are and when opportunities arise, go for them!