

ITWF Student Interview

Before we begin, I need to mention that I am working with Dr. Jeffrey Stanton at Syracuse University on a project funded by the National Science Foundation. This research has been approved by Syracuse University's institutional review board and given project number 06-620. We are conducting this research to examine professional issues in the information technology field. We wish to obtain your thoughts about your perceptions and experiences regarding the IT field. With your agreement, we would like to video record this interview. Remember that your participation is voluntary and you are free to not answer any question that does not fit your circumstances or that you feel is inappropriate; you may also withdraw from the interview at any time. If you wish to participate, please read and sign the attached informed consent form and video release. Please keep one signed copy for your records.

1. WARMUP QUESTIONS

- a. Could you give me a **quick overview** of your position in this organization?
- b. Was IT your major?
- c. If no, then what was it?

2. CHALLENGES in IT

- a. What would you say are some of the **challenges** of the profession?
- b. **Do you think those challenges pertain only to the IT field?**
- c. **Have you faced any of these challenges in the workplace?**
- d. (If yes) How did you overcome them?

3. DEMANDS of IT PROFESSION

- a. What would you say are the **demands of the profession?**
- b. What about **keeping up with technology?**
- c. Do you spend a lot of time **“playing” with IT outside work?**
- d. Do your **family and friends call you for IT related questions?**

4. STEREOTYPES in IT

- a. What do you **think are some of the stereotypes of IT people?**
- b. **How do you feel about those?**
- c. What about **geek? Geekette?**
- d. What about **nerd?** Is there a difference between geek and nerd? If so, what is it?
- e. **Have you ever been called a geek/nerd? How did you feel about it ?**
- f. Are your friends in the same field as you?

5. WOMEN in IT

- a. **In your experience, what is the gender makeup of an IT workplace?** What do you think of that?

For female respondents

- b. How do you feel about **being a woman in IT?**
- c. Has it been **challenging?** Why or why not? Do you speak about these issues with your peers?
- d. What do your **family and friends think of your career choice?**

For male respondents

- e. **What challenges do you think women face in the IT profession?**
- f. **How have these issues been handled?**

6. ADVICE to STUDENTS

- a. What would you **advise a new student** who is not sure about choosing an IT major?
- b. What are some of the **misconceptions** students or others have of the IT field?
- c. Which **side/s of IT attracts you the most?**
- d. How are you **using IT in your current job?**

Do you have any **questions for me?** Thank you very much for your assistance!