

Todd T.

Technical lead, IBM computer systems power, packaging and cooling

July 2017 - Works at: IBM Research in Yorktown Heights, NY

General Field of Work

Computer Systems Engineering

Undergraduate Education

University of Virginia for Physics

Minor: No reply

Undergraduate Non-Academic Interests: Music

Graduate Education

Middlebury College; Stanford University for M.A. French (Middlebury); M.S. and Ph.D. Electrical Engineering (Stanford)

Professional Societies or Organizations

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

What high school academic interests led to your college & career path?

Math and science classes.

Please briefly describe your path to your current job

Started in physics but realized that I liked applications. Tried an electronics lab in undergraduate school. Liked it. Switched to electrical engineering. Found a Ph.D. research project that I enjoyed, but also made sure that employers would be interested in my Ph.D. work. Got a job in my field after graduating. Having a Ph.D. fellowship from the SRC industry consortium helped set up a network of contacts that made getting a job easier.

What are a few things that you like best about your job?

My job site has lots of smart people in a variety of disciplines. There is always something new to learn. It's an interesting place to work.

What are the most important technical skills needed in your job?

An intuitive feel for electromagnetics, thermal convection and conduction, mechanical stress and strain.

What are the most important non-technical skills needed in your job?

The ability to communicate my ideas to others. The persuasiveness to convince a colleague to help me or partner with me.

What are some of the most challenging aspects of your job?

Time management. There is never enough time to do everything. So it's very important to prioritize, so as to put my limited time into the most important projects.

Any advice for students about to begin their college career in September?

It's rewarding to see one's ideas actually get implemented in products.
