

1046-00-1736 **Mac Hyman*** (hyman@lanl.gov), Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM 87545.
Good Choices for Great Careers in the Mathematical Sciences.

The choices students and scientists make early in their careers will impact them for a lifetime. I will use the experiences of scientists who have had great careers to identify universal distinguishing traits of good career choices that can guide decisions in education, choice of profession, and job opportunities to increase your chances of having a great career with long-term sustained accomplishments.

Recently, I began tracking the careers of our past student interns and realized that the scientists with great careers weren't necessarily the top students, and that some of the most brilliant students now had some of the most oh-hum careers.

I will describe how choices made by the scientists with great careers were based on following their passion, building their talents into a strength supporting their profession, and how they identified a supportive engaging work environment. I will describe simple principles that can help guide your choices, in school and in picking the right job leading to a rewarding career and more meaningful life.

The topic is important because, so far as I can tell, life is not a trial run - we have one shot to get it right. The choices you are making right now to planning your career will impact you for a lifetime. (Received September 16, 2008)