



Profiles of Electrical Engineers and Computer Scientists



John Harding

**Hardware Development Engineer
Hewlett Packard Company
Palo Alto, CA**

Education:

B.S. - Electrical Engineering, Howard University
M.S. - Electrical Engineering, Stanford University

Job Description:

Hardware Development Engineer working on developing software tools and hardware designs.

Advice to Students:

"Some non-engineering courses that have proved to be helpful are management, business, and entrepreneurship classes."

Video Transcript 1:

"Don't forget that you're black but don't make that the primary issue. Make the primary issue the goal to succeed. If you want to be successful, be technically strong and be able to prove to anybody or be able to rise to any technical challenge. If you can rise to any technical challenge and succeed, then being black is automatically secondary because this industry is about being able to make money. And if a company knows that you're a successful engineer, you're a good engineer, that's all they care about because you're going to produce for them, you're going to make money for them."

Interview:

John Harding has been a hardware development engineer at Hewlett Packard for two years. He has plenty of motivation to do his job. "I come in and I play with next generation technology future technology. We're developing technology here that people won't see for another two, three years. And that's my job. I get to push the envelope of the technology, and I really like what I do - and secondarily, I'm generously rewarded for it."

To achieve success, Harding emphasizes the importance of attitude and knowledge of business and people. "For a successful career, you need to be determined. And you need to be confident. But, at the same time you need to avoid being arrogant."

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Some non-engineering courses that have proved to be helpful are management, business, and entrepreneurship classes. Harding adds, "I also took a psychology class on behavior and personal adjustment which I use almost every day. It teaches you about people and about your behavior with people. These are very important because you're working with a team, and you need to understand how to deal with other people."

As a young black engineer, Harding mentors elementary school children in San Francisco. He also works with high school students and gives them the following business advice, "Don't forget that you're black, but don't make that the primary issue. Make the primary issue the goal to succeed. If you want to be successful, be technically strong and be able to prove to anybody that you can do your job. If you can rise to any technical challenge and succeed, then being black is automatically secondary because this industry is about being able to make money."

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