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# Testimonial: ExxonMobil KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

**A**s our Chairman and CEO Rex W Tillerson has said, education today is the key to energy tomorrow. Any ExxonMobil employee will tell you that this philosophy is ingrained in our company culture: We are committed to increasing the number of students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

I know this firsthand.

As a high school student back in 2003, I applied for and received ExxonMobil’s national Math and Engineering Award from the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, an organisation that identifies, supports and develops emerging Latino leaders. At that moment, my years of rigorous math and science classes – I took every single one available at my school – had finally paid off.

I used the scholarship toward my education at Manhattan College in New York, where I studied civil engineering. Shortly before graduation, I ran into the president of the Global Organisation for the Advancement of Latinos (GOAL), who encouraged me to interview for a full-time job with ExxonMobil. With his support and mentorship, I landed a job as a project manager in ExxonMobil’s Fuels Marketing division. I’ve now been here for four years.

I am proud that my employment with ExxonMobil serves as a direct reflection of the company’s commitment to investing in the next generation of scientists and engineers. But I am more proud that it is a reflection of ExxonMobil’s belief that one of the keys to building a strong workforce is to seek and support diversity.

Immediately after joining the company, I became involved with the GOAL programme, and I will remain involved throughout my career. I know ExxonMobil is an industry leader in the energy sector because it benefits from the rich variety of knowledge, skills and perspectives of its employees.

I’ve learned in my four years with the company that ExxonMobil rigorously builds on this blend of knowledge, skills and perspectives with extensive development processes. My favorite quote is “Knowledge is power,” and as a young employee, I feel constantly empowered by the tools, training, mentors and experiences available to me. Understanding how to approach problems in an organised way, follow processes, and arrive at productive conclusions can get you through any job at this company.

As I move forward in my career with ExxonMobil, I hope to gain the experiences and skills required to develop into a future leader with the company. I know that I will be joined along the way by the next generation of scientists and engineers, on whose ingenuity and innovation we will depend to help meet the rising global demand for energy. ■