

Ana Chavez

Chemical Engineer

Why did you join Air Products?

I joined Air Products because the offer of the CDP program was very interesting. I thought it was a good fit for me to explore the different areas where I could apply my technical and leadership skills.

Why do you love working at Air Products?

I like the people and the culture. In all these years, I have always felt that I'm respected and valued for my technical experience as well as my cultural differences.

What is it that keeps you working at Air Products?

I like Air Products' mission of becoming the most profitable in its industry, and I want to be part of that achievement. I like the continuous challenges that I'm offered that allow me to continue to develop my career and contribute to the company's success.

Please describe (in brief) your career at Air Products to date.

I joined Air Products after I graduated from Rutgers University with a BS in Chemical Engineering in 2007. I was part of the Career Development Program, where I completed three, one-year assignments in areas such as market research and business model development, Process Safety, Plant Process Engineering. I continued my career development on the technical side with two more assignments as a process engineer in the HyCO and LNG technologies. I also completed a Masters in Chemical Engineering at Villanova University using the company's tuition reimbursement program.

I'm currently working as a Project Development Engineer in the standard products team, where I'm responsible for providing project capital estimates to the commercial team for small- to medium-scale oxygen and nitrogen generators. I have worked on projects that ranged from \$0.5 million dollars to \$10 million dollars.

Tell me about the most intriguing/satisfying thing(s) you've since you've been at Air Products.

Early in my career, I was in charge of providing information about our North America operating plants to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to comply with a new regulation. I worked with a large team of different functions in the company. I had the opportunity to travel to most of our major sites and learned more about the operation of our plants. I also had the opportunity to meet upper management to report the work I was doing—work that allowed

Air Products to continue its operation with all the safety and security layers imposed by DHS. This assignment helped me to develop leadership and technical skills early on my career.

What career advice would you give to those just starting out in their engineering careers?

Don't be afraid of trying new things outside your comfort zone. Always push yourself to experience new challenges because that is the only way of knowing your real capabilities and what best fit for your long term career. Early in your career, it is important to experience different areas of a company and develop a professional/personal networking.