NEWS RELEASE

Dee Amos shows young women the STEM way

3/17/2017

When I talk about my journey to American Airlines, I often say I did it the long way.

To succeed as a woman in a male-dominated fired is certainly a point of pride … But it means nothing without making sure those who come next have the same opportunities — or better.

In fact, my exposure to aircraft maintenance began when I was just 7 years old. I won't be sharing what year that was, but I remember watching my father work on F-4 Phantom fighter jets in the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force (RAF). We were based in Brüggen, Germany, but when we returned to England, I knew I wanted to see more of the world. So, I decided to follow his path.

I spent 12 years in the RAF, a career that started with two years of night school math classes so I could qualify as a technician. I maintained all types of military aircraft, including the Red Arrows, the RAF's aerobatic team. But finding my footing after I left took time. So I took a leap of faith — paying my way to Dallas, Texas, to earn a mechanic's license from the Federal Aviation Administration. Later, I saw an opening with American for an Aircraft Maintenance Technician. Perhaps a bit too excited, I hand-wrote my cover letter on the back of my resume and sent it.

I'm now 16 years into my career at American, working to keep some of our largest long-haul aircraft safe and reliable from tail to tire. To succeed as a woman in a male-dominated field is certainly a point of pride, and my dear husband Richard has supported me all the way. But it means nothing without making sure those who come next have the same opportunities — or better.

That's why I've shared my experience as a woman in aviation maintenance with whoever will listen — from societies and seminars to the halls of British Parliament. But I view my most important roles as those of teacher and mentor. My passion is spending my time off at the Royal Institution, where I help students construct replica jet engines using

cardboard and polystyrene molds I hand cut myself. About a third of the students are female, and as we recognize Women's History Month in March, it's my hope that the number of young women interested in science, technology, engineering and math will continue to climb. It would be my honor to guide them (and any interested gentlemen, too) into such a rewarding career.

On behalf of American and my more than 100,000 colleagues, many of whom are blazing trails of their own, thanks for flying with us today.

Deanna (Dee) Amos
Aircraft Maintenance Technician
London Heathrow (LHR)