

# HER POTENTIAL IS ALSO YOURS

*An open letter on Women's Equality Day to everyone looking for the next industry-changing idea.*

During my 40 years as an engineer, we've gone from a world where just 7% of my STEM peers were women, including me, to 24% today. Progress. But still a lot of potentially brilliant thinking that never gets to the table.

As business leaders, we're in the best position to change that. In 2012, Abbott created a high school STEM internship program. About two-thirds of the participants are young women. Nearly all – 97% – of those interns go on to study STEM subjects in college and the program is directly increasing the number of women in our STEM pipeline.

We're not perfect – about 40% of our U.S. STEM workforce today is women – but we're working on it. And we know our internship helps. So, we've created a blueprint capturing everything we've learned, and we're sharing it with you. We hope you'll download it, read it, modify it – and implement a high school internship program of your own. Together, we can make our companies – and more importantly, society – better by giving girls opportunities to succeed in STEM.

Take one of our bright young interns from this summer, Jomi Babatunde-Omoya. She remembers people assumed she wasn't smart, because she looked different than them – had a different accent. This summer, Jomi worked on our life-changing heart stents. She plans to become a biomedical engineer. We know she can.

We have to tap into everyone's brainpower to create the most innovative, life-changing technologies. Because *her* potential – Jomi's, your daughters' – is your potential, too. None of us can change the face of STEM alone, so we hope you'll join us in this important work.

You can download our blueprint at: [WWW.STEM.ABBOTT](http://WWW.STEM.ABBOTT)

Sincerely,

Corlis Murray  
Senior Vice President, Quality, Regulatory  
and Engineering Services, Abbott



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