ABSTRACT Teams and processes today remain largely stove-piped, with centers of focus in discipline specific areas. The greatest costs and delays in large programs are often due to issues with integration and testing. A physics degree provides the perfect cross-discipline advantage to connect these stove-piped areas and provide unique value to teams, helping them to succeed in areas where other teams struggle. The key to realizing this value, becoming a key member of a team, and realizing the career of your dreams is twofold. First, realizing how valuable your cross-discipline advantage is, and second, knowing how to make others realize this value.

BIO Amanda Acevedo is President of VEDO Systems, a software engineering and consulting firm in Houston, Texas. With over 20 years of experience, Ms. Acevedo has worked on development projects, served as a technical leader and managed cross program integration efforts. Her experience spans from Argonne National Lab where she developed control system software for the ATLAS accelerator, to NASA/Johnson Space Center where she worked Space Shuttle, X38, AERCam and Orion programs, through Intuitive Machines, an engineering think tank, where she developed software and led projects in the aerospace, energy, and medical sectors. Now she leads a team meeting the software needs of both small and large organizations across the country.