

E-MAIL CONTRIBUTIONS**Support girls at an early age**

[DEBORAH LENCESKI](#)

The discussion on the hurdles facing women in graduate studies and the working world, while balancing the social demands of womanhood are interesting. As a practising civil engineer and mother of four I struggle with them myself, however the problem begins earlier.

We need to do more to encourage girls curiosity and mechanical skills. They can't be discouraged to explore things that are grimy, squishy or slimy. These later become fields of mechanics, chemistry and biology. We must do more to keep our daughters fascinated with exploring how our world works. We also need to prepare them for the realities of the adult world. I've seen many young, female engineers discouraged by the rudeness of their male counterparts -- of course it wouldn't hurt to teach our sons to be polite -- and by the blatant impact of funding and politics on the avenues available for pursuing their dreams. If they love learning about their chosen field, they'll be willing to endure the struggles to keep working in it.

Deborah Lenceski

dlenceski@langleywb.com

