

Anita Borg



Life and Career

Born on January 17, 1949 in Chicago, Illinois

Received her Ph.D. in computer science from New York University in 1981

Worked in industry, developing operating systems for a variety of companies

Made major contributions to activism in STEM

- Systems (1987) : mailing list for women computer professionals.
- Founded Institute for Women and Technology (1997)
- Co-founded Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing annual meeting in 1994

Obstacles Overcome

After graduation she felt pressured to merely fill the role of working to get her husband through graduate school. At that time, job ads were still separated between men and women.

Her early tech career was in data processing, and although she was doing a lot of programming, she was still classified and paid as a clerk.

Inspiration

She displayed a can-do attitude and unfaltering vision. When she had an idea, she acted on it and did her best to make it successful. She didn't let stereotypes and other's notions of what women can and can't do hold her back

"If we want technology to serve society rather than enslave it, we have to build systems accessible to all people - be they male or female, young, old, disabled, computer wizards or technophobes."