

Magazine of the Society of Women Engineers

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### ZOHRA HEMANI

NORTHROP GRUMMAN CORPORATION

*For bridging engineering and business through technical skill and strategic thinking and for delivering industry-changing new technology in geospatial and big data processing and analysis.*

Zohra Hemani is a senior technical manager for Northrop Grumman's Information Systems sector. She leads a multidisciplinary team of more than 40 engineers working on an enterprise flagship system serving thousands of users for the U.S. government. Hemani joined Northrop Grumman in 2002 as a software developer, quickly establishing herself as a natural leader. She was promoted to project manager at the age of 24.

At 14, Hemani came to the United States from Pakistan to pursue educational opportunities. She began working in high school to support her family and continued to work throughout college to finance her education. Her interest in courses that strengthened her analytical skills motivated her to pursue a career in software engineering.

Over the past 12 years, Hemani has successfully managed several multimillion-dollar projects at Northrop Grumman. One such project was for the Army, where she interacted closely with customers, managed budget and staffing needs, proactively mitigated risks, controlled project scope in the face of constantly changing requirements, and kept her team of 25 people motivated. This resulted in the successful migration

of Army geospatial information dissemination from traditional stovepipe applications toward a service-oriented architecture. During this time, Hemani identified an opportunity for increased camaraderie within her division and formed a committee to build morale and team spirit. She also led the growth opportunities task force in her organization, which provided recommendations to executive leadership regarding career-development opportunities for employees.

Hemani has also led multiple million-dollar projects for Northrop Grumman's Independent Research and Development (IRAD). She was the principal investigator for advancing geospatial analysis and visualization tools and Web services to solve customers' technical challenges. She has developed patent pending technologies, published six articles, and presented at various conferences. Hemani was asked to lead the productization of IRAD capabilities that solve "big-data" challenges facing the organization's intelligence community customers. Despite a tight schedule, she led a team of engineers, technologists, and managers to integrate several project capabilities as a single product offering. Another such initiative resulted in the

creation of a multi-intelligence "application store" that is now the foundation of an entirely new line of business.

An engaged leader, Hemani consistently mentors colleagues in their career growth. She is an active member of Northrop Grumman's diversity and inclusion advisory board and various employee resources groups. In 2007, Hemani received the Women of Color Rising Star award and has earned numerous awards for her technical leadership and dedication to customer satisfaction.

She is active in youth-development programs in her community, organizing summer camps, sports tournaments, and tutoring mathematics. She is on the senior design advisory board at the George Washington University and advises students about careers in software engineering.

Hemani earned her B.S. in computer science from the George Washington University, and an MBA from the University of Maryland. In her spare time she volunteers in her county, teaching classes in anger and domestic abuse prevention and treatment.