

*Pioneer Hall of Fame Award*

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***Melissa  
Alyson Smith***

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The University High School Alumni Association honors Melissa Alyson Smith, class of 2002, as a 2016 Hall of Fame Alumni Award Recipient for her contributions to her profession and civic service.

Smith graduated from University High School in 2002, where she participated in a variety of school activities and earned numerous distinctions: National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, WYSE Academic Challenge for 3 years (numerous Individual Medals on Regional, Section, and State Level in Chemistry, Physics, and Computer Aided Drafting), and Varsity Track and Field during Junior/Senior years.

After graduation, she attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she posted a 3.72 GPA with Honors and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Materials Science and Engineering in 2006. Smith later went on to earn a Doctorate in Philosophy, Materials Science, and Engineering from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2012.

Smith takes pride in working hard and has accomplished a great deal throughout her young career. She is currently a Technical Staff member in the Chemical, Microsystem, and Nanoscale Technologies Group at MIT Lincoln Laboratory, where she is exploring new methods and strategies to build integrated microfabricated devices that are highly scalable.

Prior to her current job at MIT, Smith was employed at IBM Microelectronics, where she worked in process development for epitaxial thin films. In addition, she has also gained industry experience in materials testing, characterization, and processing through work internships at Deere & Company, 3M, and Xerox Corporation.

Along the way, Smith has enjoyed publishing and presenting her work, which includes a paper as first author and two conference presentations on devices for high voltage systems on flexible substrates. She holds numerous awards and distinctions, and has been the inventor/co-inventor of 5 filed patents and several other intellectual property disclosures. While at IBM, she earned a First Plateau Invention Achievement Award and a First Patent Application Award.

Smith has also demonstrated great leadership and service in community activities. During her time with IBM, she served as a Mentor for both the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program and the MindsMatterNYC program (High School Sophomores/Juniors). Through her dedication to these programs, Smith has been able to encourage, prepare, and support motivated high school students from low income families in the achievement of their college aspirations.



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***University  
High School***

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