



The Spring 2024 Alumni Spotlight is on...

Ms. Karen Brouwer



After graduating San Jose State with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering in 2001, Karen turned the internship at Cisco Systems that she was working during her last semester into a full-time position. While at Cisco Systems, she facilitated a manufacturing organizational move from Santa Clara to Milpitas to ensure production downtime was minimal. This saved the company over \$100K in potential production loss due to downtime, as measured by the number of routers shipped per day. She evaluated and reworked existing layout plans of new production facility to ensure maximum utilization of the new production space.

In the desire to learn about the expand her knowledge, Karen decided to return to San Jose State University in 2009 in pursuit of a Master's Degree in Engineering Management. It was there that Karen met Kevin Rudy, her project partner. When the class/project ended, Kevin contacted Karen and informed her of a position that he had available at Space Systems/Loral (SS/L), a satellite manufacturing and test company, as a Manufacturing Engineer. While at SS/L, Karen worked hands on in the Radio Frequency (FR) department managing a team of assembly and test technicians. Her team assembled and tested parts necessary for spacecraft testing prior to launch. She served as a liaison between RF Test Personnel and Spacecraft Management for all in house test equipment for over a dozen satellites that are currently orbiting space. Using the Green Belt attained in her classes, she facilitated the Production Assembly & Test Unit's integration into 5S.



Introduction of the 1st "Pro" version of the iPhone in 2019. Karen was a part of the team that helped introduce the iPhone 11 Pro Max to consumers.

Karen's story continues on the next page.....



Ms. Karen Brouwer, cont.

Her production unit became the standard for other manufacturing floor units to aspire. Since 2014, Karen has been at Apple, Inc working as an Engineering Project Specialist in the iPhone group. She has had a hand in supply chain part procurement and manufacturing of iPhones beginning with the iPhone 6S to last year's iPhone 15 Max. In this role, she has travelled to many countries learning all about how iPhone parts are made. She's travelled to vendors and even a few of the contract manufacturer sites. In her current role, she creates, manages, and process Engineering Change Orders and Manufacturer Change Orders while structuring the Bill of Materials. This role enables her to collaborate with cross-functional teams on multiple projects to drive deliverables to the mass production. Even almost 10 years in the role, she still loves celebrating with the team when the newest phones are finally in the hands of the consumer.

Karen credits her success to the knowledge, skills and personal connections made at SJSU's Industrial and Systems Engineering and Engineering Management programs.



Take your child to work day 2012 at Space Systems/Loral.

On display is one of the many satellites manufactured by SSL, now known as Maxar Technologies. These satellites transmit television broadcasts, satellite internet and radios as well as mobile communications. Karen's team has worked on over 2 dozen satellites still orbiting the Earth.