INTERNSHIP LEADS ALUMNA TO TYSON FOODS

When Annmarie Tyson tells people she works at Tyson Foods, they often assume she is related to the Tysons behind the multinational food brand. The shared last name was just a happy coincidence. It was her skills, not her surname, that earned her a place at Tyson Foods headquarters in Springdale, Arkansas.

Today, Tyson is a product owner in the company's IT organization—full-time employment that followed a successful internship. Her work connects directly to her two degrees in technical communication.

Education at Missouri S&T

Tyson began her S&T education as a civil engineering major, but a required technical communication course persuaded her to change majors. She joined the technical communication program and later added a minor in Spanish.

"The classes were hard, but you work hard and build the skills that help you later on," she said.

As an undergraduate, Tyson participated widely in campus activities. She competed in track and field, qualifying for the 2022 NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships in the high jump and earning second place at the GLVC Indoor Championships that same year. She also worked as a resident assistant, served as a student success coach, and joined the photography club, where she often took part in group photo walks.

While still an undergraduate, Tyson enrolled in S&T's graduate track pathway program, which allowed her to count nine shared credits toward a future master's degree. She graduated with a BS in English and Technical Communication in May 2022 and immediately began work on a master's.

"I went ahead and got the MS because my parents always said if I wanted one it would be easier while I was still young and life/work wasn't in the way." She also taught classes as a graduate teaching assistant until she graduated in May 2023.

Annmarie Tyson (MS Tech Com, SP23) participated in a panel for the Women+ in Technology of Northwest Arkansas during their annual conference on July 9, 2024, held at Ozark Beer Company in Rogers, Arkansas. The session, titled "AI Today and What's to Come," brought together local technology professionals to discuss current trends and future developments in artificial intelligence.

From Internship to Full-Time Job

Her connection to Tyson Foods began when she was still an undergraduate, through an initial conversation at the S&T career fair. She joked during her interview that she applied because of her last name, but she also explained the value of technical communication to a company that was not initially seeking someone in her field. "Oh yeah, we can put you anywhere with those skills," the recruiter said. That

conversation ultimately led to an internship with the company.

From June 2021 through August 2022, she worked on Tyson Foods' IT Finance Team, gaining experience with new systems, including SAP. When a need arose, she also stepped in as a project manager for several weeks. Her internship performance impressed them and led to a full-time job offer before graduation.

After she graduated with her master's degree in May 2023, Tyson joined the company's IT Value Management Office, initially working as an applications analyst before advancing to her current position as product owner.

In her applications analyst role, she supported the company's project-management tools through documentation, training, and user assistance. She created support materials, developed internal communications for the IT project management office, and helped implement system updates driven by new rules, data requirements, or regulatory changes.

As a product owner, she supports two major project-management applications, Jira and Clarity PPM, which are used across the company's IT and HR teams. "My day to day includes support activities, training users, project management, and supporting our developers as they complete the enhancements on our product roadmap," she said. Her responsibilities also include leading training sessions, providing technical support for the tools and related hardware, and helping her team follow Agile practices.

Professional and Community Engagement

Outside of her role at Tyson Foods, she contributes to technology-focused organizations in Northwest Arkansas. She served as marketing and communications director for Girls in Tech NWA from March 2024 to January 2025, where she created and shared social media and membership communications.

She also served as a mentor with InnovateHER from May 2024 to May 2025. "I participated in a year-long mentorship program where I support and guide an individual as they moved through a program. In this program the mentees acquire tech certifications, attend technology speaker sessions, and learn about the industry."

Tyson's academic preparation and campus involvement strengthened both her skills and confidence. They positioned her well for the responsibilities she now has at Tyson Foods. Her academic success gave her the confidence to succeed in a demanding professional environment because, as she put it, "If I could do it at S&T, I could do it anywhere."

CAMPUS AND ETC DEPARTMENT WELCOME DR. DEBRA BOURDEAU

Dr. Debra Bourdeau joined Missouri S&T as Vice Provost of Online Learning and Educational Innovation on April 1, 2025. She also holds a faculty appointment as Associate Teaching Professor in the Department of English and Technical Communication. As vice provost, she will lead efforts to redesign and expand the university's online undergraduate and graduate programs, drawing on her experience in digital learning leadership at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Worldwide.