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Inspiring women to follow their dreams in math and science

Video Transcript: <https://www.accenture.com/us-en/company-isabel-vacas-paez-inspiring-women.asp>

Isabel Vacas Páez, Manager

My mom always coached me to be independent, to work hard and to be whatever I wanted. My name is Isabel Vacas and I've been an engineer for more than 15 years. The story of my mom that has really inspired my life is that my mom always told me: "Don't limit yourself and don't allow people to limit what you want. You can go as far as you want and you can always follow your dream. Don't give up and continue working in what you like."

Since I was a child, I loved to solve problems and I loved math. I loved to ask myself the why of the things. So I started to study engineering when I was at school.

I had a teacher who loved mathematics and science. This was the moment where I started to become interested in solving problems and that's why I started studying it.

The challenge that I had to become an engineer being a woman was basically there are a lot of men competing with women. From my point of view, it's quite important to have women in engineering, in science, and in math, in order to balance the percentage of men and women working in this area. It's something that needs to be changed. As soon as there are more women and more models in this area, it will be easier for others to copy and to be part of that.

I will say that my advice for young women is to follow their passion, to continue growing and learning, and to be whatever they want to be.