

Aleman Manages Applications Engineering at Universal Electronics

Monica Aleman already had a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, a master's degree in electrical engineering with a minor in computer science, and work experience in the telecom, aerospace, and lighting industries when a Universal Electronics (UEI) recruiter contacted her. When Aleman heard about the company and its products, she says that "it was an easy decision to work for a company that wants to simplify the smart home experience."



Monica Aleman is manager, applications engineering, for Universal Electronics (UEI) North America, where she manages the applications engineering team in the North American region.

She came on board at the Scottsdale, AZ-based manufacturer of consumer electronics products for the "smart home" in February 2018 as a senior applications engineer.

In that position, she interacted with customers to understand their needs, sales staff to promote the most applicable solution to customer needs, engineering and design teams to drive initial architecture and cost determinations, and she wrote specifications for product requirements to begin work on the project.

Aleman was promoted into her current position as manag-

er, applications engineering for UEI North America where she manages the applications engineering team in the North American region to ensure that priorities are understood and managed effectively.

"I organize technology training and continuous improvement initiatives to grow the capabilities of the team, and review specifications, proposals, and cost estimates to ensure accuracy and quality," she details.

"I have weekly calls with peers globally to network, share ideas and experiences. This has been key in ensuring a successful transition [for me] from an individual contributor to a managerial role."

Aleman has an internal support system so she can discuss projects, receive pointers about how to deal with her team, make priority calls, and just bounce ideas around about how to provide better solutions to UEI's customers, all of which validates her choice of joining the company.

When she was promoted to the applications engineering manager level, she was able to move from a technical track onto a managerial track, although she still keeps some technical track responsibilities.

"To make that move, a technical track employee must demonstrate the ability to take on ultra-high complex projects and be able to manage multiple high priorities at a given time, and to understand UEI's unique product offerings and how to clearly communicate those to customers," she explains.

"Being in the electronics industry requires that you stay current and ahead of what's in the market," she further notes.

That's why UEI's management encourages cross-functional collaboration and motivation to keep learning to ensure its employees are delivering cutting-edge technology solutions. UEI also promotes continuous learning and offers reimbursement programs to fill needed positions.

As a result, "I feel I have support from my management for professional and personal growth," she shares.

Working remotely during the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was a challenge for Aleman, whose position involves constant communication with multiple internal and external stakeholders.

"Finding the balance between work and life was initially a challenge, but I learned that having a closing time for my laptop was necessary for mental and physical health," she concludes.

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