

Cynthia Floyd has achieved 29 years and 8 months of service at Americhem working her way up from Executive Secretary to IT Support to her current role as EDW/BI Architect. Cynthia was hired on January 13, 1992 after Americhem came to her college for a job fair to fill open positions. She started at Americhem with a 2-year Administrative Assistant degree and later achieved her Bachelor's in Computer Science through Americhem's Tuition Assistance program. Cynthia has led many projects in Americhem's IT department, but has kept her focus on building and maintaining internal database applications.

To celebrate Americhem's 80 year anniversary, Cynthia was kind enough to be interviewed as one of Americhem's longest tenured employees. The dialogue was as follows:

What was the field of plastics like when you first started?

Back then, we ran like a small business operation. We were such a lean team that we all just did what needed to be done and didn't care about job titles. All we cared about was growing the business to the best it could be. Now, the responsibilities I have today are much larger and have a global impact. With having 1,000+ employees, we have to have more structure than in the beginning.

What were some of the biggest challenges back then?

My biggest challenge back then was juggling both personal and professional roles. Keeping up with the fast changing technology was very challenging. The moment you felt comfortable with the latest release, a new one was out and you had to repeat the process all over again.

What changes have you seen in plastics?

When I started, we had floppy disks and now we are moving everything to The Cloud. It takes a lot to keep up with these systems and the knowledge it requires to run them properly, efficiently, and securely.



Picture 1: Cynthia Floyd.

What have been the greatest developments in the field of plastics over the last 29 years?

Some of the most incredible business changes have come over the last year when the pandemic forced everyone to move their technologies forward. People being able to work from home is a tremendous accomplishment and has changed the way that companies do business today and in the future. I think it proves that Americhem employees can be efficient in multiple environments.

From your perspective, what would you say are Americhem's greatest accomplishments?

Just the fact that we have remained successful for 80 years is an accomplishment in itself. So many businesses come and go and we have maintained our brand image as a leading player in our industry for 80 years now.

In your opinion, is there anything that Americhem should have done differently?

I don't think we should have done anything differently. The only thing that even comes to mind was handled properly, like many other Americhem decisions. We used to focus the majority of our business on the fibers industry and through acquisitions and global expansions, we learned that we needed to diversify our portfolio further and utilize our technology in other industries.

What are some of your fondest Americhem memories?

Since I have driven to Headquarters for almost 30 years, I can only call it a home away from home. I've become family with many people here. I can think back on a variety of memories that include both joy, laughter, and exciting challenges and I appreciate every one of them.

What are the key issues that you see Americhem addressing in the future?

We continue growing and I don't see that changing any time soon. Becoming a larger company has its own challenges for our IT systems. We will always have to keep up with the changing technology, but as we grow, it becomes even more important. Doing this and maintaining our place as a leader in the industry will continue to be our long term goals.

Please share one memory of a funny situation that you encountered at Americhem.

Regina Roy is the one who hired me almost 30 years ago and you also interviewed her as the longest tenured female employee. She used to drive this little red sports car and she and I would drive around checking into new office equipment in our roles back then. That car was so low to the ground, it took everything in me not to get sick in there. I later came to find out that Regina had the same issue. Needless to say, she moved on from that little red sports car!



Picture 2: Cynthia taking a ride in Larry Roduner's retirement gift he bought himself.

Describe what Americhem means to you.

Americhem supported me financially through their Tuition Assistance program, which is how I obtained my Bachelor's degree. They were understanding when I needed a flexible schedule to make it to my day classes and they were patient when it took me longer than 4 years to complete the degree since I was working full time and raising children. Every year at Thanksgiving, my family says how thankful we are for the turkey provided by Americhem as well as Americhem's commitment and mission to provide employment in this community. I didn't know I would be here for 30 years; I was hired in 1992 and then it seems like all of a sudden I received this email from you to do an interview with me on my long term tenure.

Thank you Cynthia for your endless commitment to Americhem and your timeless friendship to many of us. We wish you continued success in your long standing career and look forward to your ongoing positivity you spread across the company.