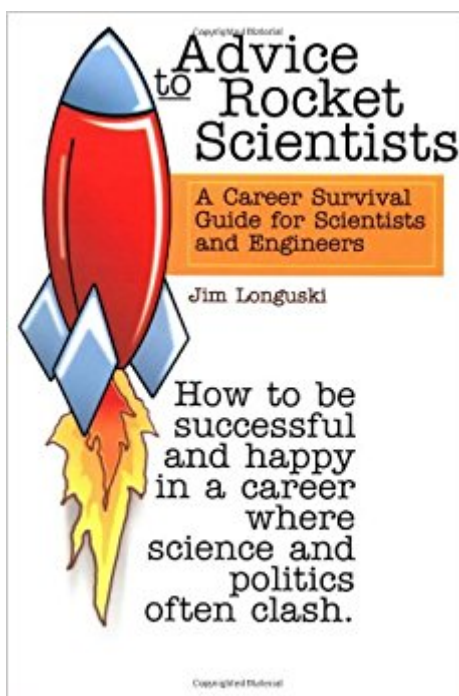


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Advice To Rocket Scientists: A Career Survival Guide For Scientists And Engineers (Library Of Flight)



Synopsis

A former NASA engineer and astronautics professor offers down-to-earth advice and recommended reading on preparing for and surviving in science-related professions. This book is especially valuable for those who are attempting career transitions between the work place and academic environments.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An important book. . . I wish I had this book before starting my career!" -- Dr. Enrico Lorenzini, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
It took me years to learn much of what's in this book...
The book is wonderfully written... -- Dr. William J. O'Neil, Galileo Project Manager, 1990-1998, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology
This easy-to-read book explains the side of being successful that the professors do not teach... -- Dr. Gerald R. Hintz, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

Jim Longuski joined Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 1979 after earning a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the University of Michigan. As a maneuver analyst and mission designer at JPL, Longuski helped plan NASA's Galileo Mission to Jupiter. In 1988, Longuski began teaching astronautics at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. He has published over one hundred conference and journal articles on spacecraft dynamics and control, reentry theory, mission design,

and space trajectory optimization. Recently, Longuski collaborated with Professor Ephraim Fischbach (at Purdue) and Professor Daniel J. Scheeres (at the University of Michigan) to propose an experiment to test Einstein's theory of gravity at an unprecedented accuracy. This new test of General Relativity would precisely measure the deflection of a spacecraft during a close encounter with the sun.

The wisdom of the author should reach much wider audience beyond rocket scientists. The best time to read this book is when you are entering a grad school in any field where your work requires some cooperation of or collaboration with other students, staff, or people from outside institutions, but I think it is never too late to read it. I came across this book because one of my former roommate had it when I had hard time with my boss. I borrowed it and read it through quickly, but later I decided to buy a copy myself. I had my years in a doctorate program in brain science. The labs are filled with politics, not of the scale discussed in this book, but lots of small politics related to shared equipment, facility, building maintenance people, etc., as well as resources like technician time. The worst of all, many professors are very poor leaders and they lack effective management skills. Also, if you read this book and look around in your institution, you'll get a very good sense of which professors are better bosses, because this book gives you strong suggestions of what kind of human qualities to look for, and you'll be surprised how few professors are good bosses. When you're starting a project, everyone looks like a nice person. It is when you have difficult challenges (for which your boss has no idea) that separates good bosses from bad ones. If you want to achieve something, you need pragmatic skills including the kind of politics described in this book, combined with common sense understanding of human nature.

A fantastic book with sound advice on maneuvering through the aerospace industry.

I recommend this book to all new engineers joining our group. Don't forget the Golden Rule guys.

"Advice to Rocket Scientists" is an excellent guide to wading through your aerospace engineering career. It dwells on numerous tips for those in industry and for those in the academia. I'd recommend it to other engineering disciplines too.

Gave this book to my daughter, a recent college graduate, who has recently begun a job in aerospace. She found that the information contained in it was an accurate description of reality.

She enjoyed the humor.

Gift for a friend.

Has useful information for some students, as it does not cover all cases that students are in. Useful advice are cleared laid out in the chapters

Overall I give this book a "thumbs up", but there were several passages where the author came across as overbearing and pompous. It seemed the reader was being shouted at rather than advised. The good outweighed the bad, so I do recommend it to all you "new hires" out there.

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