TOP TIPS

Don’t be afraid to take risks.
I’ve been in IT throughout my career and have never done the same job twice. Don’t be afraid to take risks with your career choices and within your job as a leader. Taking risks within your job allows you to be entrepreneurial.

Maria Roat, Deputy Federal Chief Information Officer (CIO), Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of the Chief Information Officer

Do it. Just do it.
Do not reduce what you want to pursue by overthinking. If it is something you want to pursue, do it. You have a network that can bring you forward. Use your network to vent frustrations and then move forward and do it.

Shelly Heller, Ph.D., Director, Center for Women in Engineering, School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS), GW

Know your craft.
They always say knowledge is power. In the STEM field, it really is. If you know your craft, you can take a seat at the table.

Sonja Lemott, Chief, PEO Engineering Division, Program Executive Office (PEO), Defense Healthcare Management Systems (DHMS)

Follow your passion.
Work in something that you believe in and something that you enjoy. And, if you haven’t found it or want to try something new, move jobs. There is no harm in moving jobs. It can make you a more effective contributor. Always follow your passion because you will enjoy it and likely be more successful.

Andrea Norris, Director, Center for Information Technology, and Chief Information Officer (CIO), National Institutes of Health (NIH)