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Editorial

Where is Your **Career Headed?**

he special section in this issue (following p. 32) will help you as you explore that question.

Whether you're searching for a new job, negotiating a raise or promotion, or simply contemplating your satisfaction with your present position and employer, it's important to understand how your salary compares with the salaries of other chemical engineers. Betty Feehan's summary of the 2002 AIChE Salary and Employment Survey (p. 2S) provides a wealth of salary information, including correlations with experience, education, and employer size. It also includes a sidebar by Irene Kim that offers additional perspectives on engineering salaries based on data from other organizations.

Of course, the industry and function in which one works affect salary. And as Kim points out in her article on p. 7S, chemical engineers are employed in many areas that extend far beyond the traditional chemical process industries. Her look at some of the many diverse niches that chemical engineers are carving out for themselves - from marketing, to writing, to patent law, to consulting — may help you identify new fields to explore.

Making transitions is the subject of the third article (p. 11S), which follows the career path of Corrine Kupstas, beginning with her first job as an environmental engineer with a government agency, through her environmental staff positions for a major chemical company, then her manufacturing and supervisory roles, and her present position as the global environmental director for Pharmacia Corp. She shares her thoughts on the transitions she has made and how family considerations have factored into her career decisions.

Regardless of where you decide to take your career, Kate Wendleton's "Advance Your Career in 8 Words or Less" (p. 14S) will teach you a simple yet effective way to let others know about your accomplishments and your worth. Her advice can help you keep your career on track and improve your chances of getting where you want to go.

Any task is easier if you have the proper tools. These articles (and those you'll find each month in CEP's Career Catalyst department) are among some of the key tools in the savvy chemical engineer's careermanagement toolbox.

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