



Mechanical Engineering  
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

**Danielle Applestone, Ph.D.**  
*Outstanding Young Mechanical Engineer, 2018*

BS ChemE, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
2002

Ph.D. MSE, The University of Texas at Austin, 2012

*CEO and Co-founder*  
Daughters of Rosie

Danielle Applestone is the former CEO of Bantam Tools, a Berkeley-based manufacturer of desktop CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machines. Prior to that, Danielle ran a U.S. Government Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) project to develop digital design software and manufacturing tools for training purposes. When the DARPA funding ended, her team took their technology and launched her second company, Other Machine Co., which was acquired in 2017 and became Bantam Tools. Danielle got her start as an entrepreneur by founding a SaaS business in 2003 and operating it for 13 years, putting herself through grad school with that company before selling it. While in grad school she invented and patented high performance energy storage materials that have been licensed and are undergoing commercialization within a

large multinational materials company. Danielle is passionate about education, especially science and math for women and girls, fostering work-based apprenticeship programs, and encouraging the development of businesses that provide relevant and meaningful mentorship for the future workforce in both urban and rural areas. As a result, in 2018 Danielle founded Daughters of Rosie, a company that works with manufacturers who want to hire women. Danielle received her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from MIT in 2002 and a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 2012. She is a member of the 2016 Class of Henry Crown Fellows and the Aspen Global Leadership Network at the Aspen Institute.