



Saying YES  
to accounting

How the Young Entrepreneurial Scholars program inspires me to pursue an accounting career

By Anna Juarez

Being the first person in my family to graduate high school, I was not aware of the opportunities and programs available to assist me with furthering my education.

I was the oldest child and had no mentors or older siblings whom I could ask. I attended Hamilton High School and was enrolled in the business and finance track. I was a member of several school organizations, the Academy of Finance, DECA and Business Students Co-op Program. At the Academy of Finance, I took classes in personal finance and accounting. DECA gave me opportunities to compete in district, regional and statewide marketing competitions, where my partner and I placed sixth in the state and qualified for nationals.

Midway during my junior year, I learned about the Young Entrepreneurial Scholars (YES) program. I knew this was an opportunity that would allow me explore various accounting and finance fields. Upon arriving at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, I was excited and nervous because it was the first time I was away from home. Not only did the program give me a taste of college life, it also enhanced my business, writing, math and technology skills. I remember creating a business plan with a detailed proposal and

budget. In a writing class, I learned about resumes, cover letters and business writing etiquette. The math class was a class that I looked forward to because it was taught by a UW-Oshkosh professor. He told us we were doing the same work as the students in his college classes. In the IT class, I learned about HTML codes.

We had a lot of bonding and fun time during the trips to different companies, such as Oshkosh Trucking and Wisconsin Dells. At the end of the program, I applied for a six-week internship that would be offered to five YES students. The internship consisted of working Monday to Thursday and attending a workshop on Fridays. During the workshops, interns were encouraged to talk about their experiences. We also took trips to Milwaukee-area accounting firms and accounting departments. I remember going to KPMG, Northwestern Mutual, Milwaukee Brewers and Johnson Controls.

I was awarded one of the five internships, which was at Legacy Bank, a minority-owned bank in Milwaukee. This was my first experience in a professional setting and meeting people who are working in a field that I hope to pursue one day.

At Legacy Bank, I worked with the comptroller and on daily tasks such as making journal entries. My other tasks during the summer included researching bank statements and building an Excel file to analyze the amounts and investigate variances in the accounts. At the end of my internship, Legacy Bank CEO and Vice

President Deloris Sims asked me if I was interested in working as a part-time teller during my senior year of high school. In high school, I felt I was at an advantage compared to my peers because of the exposure I received from the YES program.

When it was time to apply for college, I had support from several of my mentors I met from the YES program. Dr. Muriel A. Hawkins, vice chancellor for the Center for Academic Support and Diversity at UW-Oshkosh, always made sure I was on top of things when it came to applying for colleges and scholarships. I chose to attend Marquette University because of its location and my acceptance into the Education Opportunity Program.

Today, I am a senior at Marquette University. I plan to graduate in December with a double major in finance and international business. As a career, I am interested in working at a financial institution that works closely with redevelopment companies and commercial lending. I'm also interested in managing foreign subsidiary or global accounts for a large corporation.

After establishing a career, I would love to offer my time and business knowledge to a nonprofit organization or serve on one of its boards. I would also like to mentor students of color who are interested in business by offering them advice and an extra push to succeed. ● ● ●

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