



INTERVIEW SERIES: E-BOARD, 2017

Michelle Bryce, Director Alumni Relations

The go-getter force of leading by example represents Michelle Bryce, Director of Alumni Relations. The first time Michelle saw GWWIB was at the Colonial Inauguration Organization fair as an eager freshman. Michelle explains, "On my tour, I heard about GWWIB, and they were so nice, inviting, welcoming and professional-development oriented," Michelle elaborates, "This is one the main reasons I wanted to come to DC and GW. I wanted to grow as a professional in an academic setting and be in D.C. GWWIB sold me. The women seemed really put together and passionate." In fostering and coordinating the GWWIB Alumni Database, Michelle hopes to share to current GWWIB members the importance of female empowerment, especially in the business world.

Michelle explains frustrations on why women are underrepresented in the workplace. "It's a shame. We are going through a new wave of feminism where it is important for women to not be afraid, even in male dominated fields." Michelle takes this challenge personally, "I have classes now where I am the only girl in a group project. It can be intimidating and scary, but I always remind myself that I am here for a reason: I am here and I am worth it."

For Michelle, GWWIB helps combat inequity and general stereotypes. "GWWIB is giving us the tools to be confident when we enter the workplace. GWWIB is open to all majors so all women can take advantage of the GWWIB resources including the GWWIB alumni," Michelle continues, "For example, women in engineering majors can also benefit, because they are also in a male-dominant field. A path to success as a woman in business, politics, and STEM exists. There are several different paths, but it's possible, and we can do this."

In high school, Michelle spoke at her graduation and highlighted the people, memories and jokes about teachers. She explains about this shared network of experiences bonds people together, but not just in high school. "It's important to appreciate people even if you only spoke to them once; they are part of your path. Everyone is in your life for a reason." In starting GW, Michelle wanted to continue fostering this outlook, "Coming to college, I now know what real friends can be and the value of a real support system. It's comforting to be surrounded by such good people now who empower you and inspire you every day."

Michelle measures success with defining happiness. "Those little achievements are proud moments. To overcome something difficult and do something I didn't think possible, I consider that a success." Michelle continues, "When people rely on me, value my friendship,

and value me as a person, this creates a level of friendship that becomes part of my support system. When people come to me for things and ask for my opinion, it makes me feel good that people trust me.”

In thinking ahead for her future, Michelle relates to her favorite movie, *The Devil Wear's Prada*, “I want to be respected in my job, with my opinions, and the decisions I make. I don't want to battle to be respected, and I would never want to be feared.” Michelle explains, “Empowerment is learning from what I did yesterday and improve upon the next day.” Michelle is a go-getter with her positive outlook with whomever she meets and all that she does.