



Marie Grezeszak (MBA, 2013)

As a cryptologic officer in the U.S. Navy, Marie Grezeszak experienced the world. Yet one of her greatest naval learnings is her appreciation for being an American woman. That's because of the number of opportunities available to American women. As Marie puts it, "American women have a great quality of life and opportunities to be anything they want to be."

When it comes to life, Marie Grezeszak is not afraid to explore the opportunities that come her way.

After serving in the Navy and while she was home taking care of her young son, Marie decided it was the right time to return to school for her MBA. After exploring the educational options available in the Denver metropolitan area, she chose Colorado Technical University (CTU) because CTU fulfilled her needs for flexibility, small class sizes and real-world faculty. CTU allowed her to take specific courses that provided the full educational experience she desired. In mid-2013, Marie received her MBA in Project Management with concentrations in Finance and Marketing.

In December of 2013, shortly after assuming her current role as training supervisor for Nestlé Nutrition / Gerber Products, Nestlé decommissioned their glass manufacturing line for baby food, and everything in Marie's role and her corner of the manufacturing facility were going to change dramatically. Marie put together a comprehensive training plan to help employees fully understand aseptic manufacturing – the process by which a product is packaged in a self-contained, sterile environment - and the benefits of transitioning from glass baby food jars to plastic containers. "The old way to manufacture baby food was to put everything in glass jars and cook the heck out of it. With the aseptic method you don't cook the food in the same way, so the food maintains its nutrients and the individual ingredients can be identified." Marie firmly believes in the power of education and training. She added, "Employees need to receive training so they understand the benefits of the new product. If employees are not fully integrated into the product introduction, you will get resistance."

Marie's educational background in project management, finance and marketing enabled her to become a key member of the Gerber Products team. She feels that one of the biggest thrills of her current role was the development of her own leadership abilities while working on the team even when "they were in the muck up to their knees." She is proud of the team's performance and the way each person on the team stepped up to lead and contribute to the overall success of the project.

Whether it is her role as wife, mother, naval officer, project manager, training supervisor, or dealing with a recent unfavorable medical diagnosis, Marie approaches every challenge with confidence and courage. She does not follow one route or have one clear path ahead. She sees opportunities and possibilities everywhere and she is not afraid to explore them. On those occasions when Marie feels she has failed – and she added she has had some "epic" failures – she knows she has gained experience that she would not have had if she'd taken the predictable, safe route.

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When asked how graduating has changed or improved her life, Marie stated, “Because of CTU I’m bold in my pursuit of goals. Graduating from CTU helped me with a traditional job but I have faith that my educational experience will be a key element in the evolution of my life.”

What’s next for Marie? She wants to help people understand their talents, options and opportunities so they can flourish regardless of the obstacles and hurdles in front of them. And, she wants them to know that “epic” failures are nothing more than unique life experiences from which we grow.

She continues to work on obtaining her securities license, and she also wants to obtain a license in health insurance. She adds, “There are so many things that I aspire to do! I really want to help people understand their personal finances and health care options, especially before they are in a critical health situation. Just because you receive an unfavorable diagnosis does not mean you cease to exist immediately. You can still flourish and have an incredible life and legacy.”

Marie’s advice for others who want to succeed in work and in life ... “Knock on every door. You never know which one will open.”

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