

June 2017 Spotlight

Member Spotlight: Alyssa Belcher

Company: Blue-Grace Logistics, LLC

Title: VP & Controller

Length of FEI membership: 4 years

FEI leadership involvement: Recently joined the Board

Tell us a little bit about your career, educational/professional background and how you got to where you are today.



I started my career with a small public accounting firm. My undergraduate degree is in Accounting and Information Systems, so I worked with small business clients solving their IT business issues. After working in public accounting and consulting, I decided to take a job as the first Controller at Blue-Grace Logistics. Our Founder and CEO was my brother's neighbor and friend and he convinced me to take the job. I always thought working in the industry would be easy and boring, but I was wrong! My job at Blue-Grace has been the most challenging and rewarding of my career.

What is one piece of information you wish someone had told you when you first started your finance career?

Your career path doesn't have to be a straight line to the top. It's okay to stumble a bit along the way.

What do you love most about working as a financial executive?

I think the Finance and Accounting function is the only department that affects the entire company. My team and I work with sales, operations, IT, and customer support daily. We are the foundation for the company and our successes allow the rest of the company to perform.

What is your best networking tip?

Stand near the bar. Everyone will come to the bar at some point. Speak to people when they approach the bar, and they will likely start a conversation with you.

What personality traits and intangible qualities do you look for when recruiting new talent?

I look for someone who is trainable. I would rather hire a less experienced candidate who is open and willing to learn than a more seasoned candidate.

Sponsor Spotlight: Bradley Hewett

Company: Vaco

Title: Managing Partner

Length of FEI sponsorship: 9 years

Email: bhewett@vaco.com

Phone Number: (813) 418-5195



Tell us a little bit about your career, educational/professional background and how you got to where you are today.

I am the Managing Partner of the Tampa office and have over 20 years of recruiting experience. I began my recruiting career as a physician recruiter, specializing in retained and contingency searches for nationwide healthcare clients. In 1998, I moved to a national accounting/finance placement firm where I was consistently one of their top 5 producers. I joined Vaco's Nashville office in 2003, building and leading the Financial and Staffing business lines.

In 2005, I brought this experience to the Tampa market and created Vaco Tampa. I am so proud of the team we've built providing top notch recruiting services throughout the Bay area

Have you ever done anything out of the ordinary to apply for and/or get a job?

I told Vaco no three times before accepting the job. Everything else is confidential and might require attorneys.

What is one piece of information you wish someone had told you when you first started your career?

Success is about the journey, not the final destination.

Do you think it takes a certain kind of personality to thrive in your field? What traits are most important?

Yes, only 3% of the population can do what we do as recruiters and it's one of the reasons why there is so much turnover in our business. Persistence, determination, taking ownership, and celebrating successes are traits to being successful in this business.

Why does your company sponsor FEI Tampa Bay Chapter?

We believe in it and the concept of having an organization where like-minded accounting financial professionals can meet and network with one another.

What's the craziest thing that's ever happened to you in this industry?

Had a candidate wear a prom dress to an interview once. Happy to share the story, just ask!