



***Gislene Perales Moorman**
1988 Undergraduate Scholarship Winner
Attended Penn State*

As a Class of '88 graduate from Murry Bergtraum High School, majoring in Information Technology, I was one of the first recipients of a scholarship from FWA. The strongest memory that I have of being affiliated with FWA was as a member of the Mentoring Program. My mentor was Joyce Fox, one of the only female Senior Vice Presidents of American Express. Joyce was not only a mentor but a life coach for me. Through her examples and her great character, she showed me how to carry myself and succeed in the workplace and in my personal life. She also taught me the importance of integrity, dignity, compassion and taking responsibility for my life choices. Joyce taught me that it is not what you do that matters in life but how you do it and the affect that you have on the people whose lives you touch. As a professional Executive Assistant, I have been blessed to work alongside high level executives for corporations like Sony Music, Credit Suisse Bank, the Hard Rock Hotel and most recently Hilton Grand Vacations (the timeshare arm of Hilton Hotels).

Many people don't realize the importance of an Executive Assistant and how much power we actually have. We are in a wonderful position to learn the in's and out's of our company and to develop daily and personal relationships with the executives who actually run the business. More often than not, Executive Assistants serve as Office Managers dealing with everything from Payroll to Procurement.

Through various trials in life, I have learned many lessons about endurance, patience, dedication and commitment. Programs like FWA work and although some of us may not hold the degree or the title, we have still benefited from the exposure and opportunities that the scholarships gave us. I own my own home, have two beautiful children and have always made myself an asset to whatever company I work for. What may seem like failure to one person can easily be considered a success by another. I believe I have been successful in developing my life to a point where I understand the importance of family, friendship, strong work ethics, community involvement, dedication and leadership. It really does take a village to raise your children and I am blessed with a wide circle of people that I can depend on when life's storms come through to help me pick myself back up. My biggest blessing is being the mother of my 9 year old son, Jayson, and my 7 year old daughter, Taylor.

Looking back on high school, you always laughed when adults said time is short; but as an adult you now understand what they meant. Enjoy the moments, even the small ones, take pleasure in the positives and if you don't have any create some. No matter what situation you are in, there is someone who is worse off than you. Focus your energy on giving back to others and the joys will be returned to you.

"I think working with the committee is challenging but rewarding. It's challenging in the sense that we are trying organizing events, following up with scholarship recipients and trying getting old and new scholarship recipients to be more involved. I find it to be rewarding because I feel like I am giving back to my old school especially when I got meet the scholarship recipients during our semiannual events. The fact that I know that they are doing great, giving them advices and sharing my experience is great feeling."

- Gislene Perales Moorman