



The Up & Up

Showcasing Colorado's #localgov Superstars

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WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Educational Background:

- University of Denver, Bachelor's Degrees in Journalism Studies and English with an emphasis in Creative Writing - go Pios!
- Burlington High, Middle and Elementary School - go Cougars!

Where was your first internship and/or local government gig?

I worked at Bonny Lake State Park in the visitor's center and on maintenance team summers of high school and college! And before that I was a t-ball and machine-pitch coach for the city's youth program in Burlington, Colorado! But if those don't count, then it was the Community Relations Specialist for the Town of Frederick in 2010.

How do you recharge/practice self-care?

I finally have someone who appreciates my jingle-writing ability in my toddler daughter, Leona. She also likes to dance with abandon to Sesame Street music videos, which is a great release for both of us.

Once she's in bed, it's red wine, truffle mousse and food documentaries.

Why local government?

I truly believe that the people who make up local government are some of the best the human race has to offer. I love to be able to support them in doing more of what they love to do.

I also have a fire in my belly about local government leadership reflecting the communities that they serve and am on a mission to infuse more diversity into the profession. You can see and feel the impact of everything that's done at the local level, and we need to take that power seriously by making sure everyone has a seat at the table.

PROFESSIONALLY SPEAKING....

If you could change 1 thing about your professional development choices to this point, what would it be?

Hmmm, I really don't like to live in the regrets space, but I would have likely majored in something that more directly related to leadership or government. I sort of just fell into government and ended up loving it and I would have liked to know/think about it as a career path sooner!

What advice would you give to someone just starting his/her/their career in local government?

You are gonna love it. If you start somewhere and you don't, find the bright spots in the frontline staff in your organization - their passion for their work is infectious and they have great, not-often-heard or -appreciated perspective on almost any issue your organization is facing.

Find some people who are warriors in the field and are willing to walk into battle with you, so you always have a built in support team to lean on, even if they aren't in your organization. My government gals group text is life-giving.

What's your proudest moment of your career so far?

Being named the CCCMA/CWLG 2019 Trailblazer of the Year. To be recognized for work that means so much to me was like winning my own personal Grammy or Oscar. And to see how much the other women around me saw themselves in the award, that we were all sharing in the victory together. It was just the coolest thing ever - I will never forget it as long as I live.

How did you learn to embrace failure?

Every failure has always been followed by an even greater unstoppable triumph, even if it was hard at the time to understand what went wrong or why it happened. That has made me lean into failure in a major way and take risks I wouldn't have always felt comfortable taking.

FAST FACTS:

Favorite Colorado Spot: City Park in Denver

Favorite Book: You Are a Badass - Jenn Sincero

Childhood Dream Job: Paleontologist

Most Unusual Item in your Office: A white pumpkin decorated with melted crayon, I should probably throw it out...

One Item on your Bucket List: Attend the Food & Wine Classic in Aspen