

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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WHF Member Spotlight – March 2020 **Director, Federal Government Relations, TIAA**

Hometown

New York, New York

Fun Fact

I am starting business school at NYU's Stern School of Business in August

Describe your journey in the financial services industry and how your career has evolved to your current position.

I moved to Washington, D.C. in 2015 after graduating from Cornell University. I started as an assistant to the government affairs team at an insurance trade association, which represents the largest commercial insurance agents and brokers in both the property/casualty and employee benefits space. Shortly after starting there, I was promoted to a lobbying position managing the association's political action committee and handling flood insurance and cyber insurance policy. Following the 2016 election, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to transition to public service, working as Financial Services Legislative Assistant for Congressman Trey Hollingsworth (R-IN). There, I was responsible for advising and executing the Congressman's strategic goals related to his work on the House Financial Services Committee, managing his legislative priorities and building coalitions. Currently, I work at TIAA advocating on behalf of TIAA Bank as well as handling technology, data privacy and cybersecurity policy outreach for the enterprise.

What do you love most about what you do?

Most often getting things done in Washington is a team effort. I enjoy working across business lines within TIAA and with financial services industry partners to achieve common strategic goals. I love the constantly changing environment, which affords me the opportunity to work with new people on a variety of issues.

Hobby(ies)?

Spinning, Cooking, Travel

How long have you been a member of WHF

I've officially been a member of WHF for about a year, but I have attended events for a few years in various capacities.

Please describe your involvement with WHF.

I enjoy the brown bag lunches for the interesting topics of conversation and the opportunity to network with established professionals in my field.

How do you make the best use of your day? (think techniques to enhance productivity, time management, time out, meditation/prayer, etc.)

I am very particular about my calendar. I like to set aside time on my calendar to catch up on work that needs to get done so that I am not overscheduled, ensuring nothing falls through the cracks. This allows me to check off certain items on my daily checklist (no greater feeling than crossing off a task!).

Who or what inspires you?

My mom was and continues to be my source of inspiration every day. She had an incredibly successful career as an architect, starting her own firm and later transferring to an executive role in a well-respected project management and owner representation firm. She was a fierce advocate for what she believed in and donated her time and resources to paving the way for women around her. Her love of life and family continue to inspire me every day.

What is the best advice you have ever received

Be nice to everyone.

Who do you look up to the most and why

I look up to my first boss, Joel Wood. He provided me with endless opportunities at the beginning of my career and I strive to mirror his thoughtfulness, humor, and strength in all I do.