



Q&A with Kelli Drew

» MBA Alumnus, part-time program

With a background in accounting, Kelli Drew had the technical knowledge she needed to launch a successful career in the accounting and finance industry. Wanting to understand business from a broader perspective, Kelli applied and enrolled in Gonzaga's MBA program and graduated in 2010. She is now a Senior Accountant with the External Reporting Department at Itron in Liberty Lake, WA. Itron is an international technology company and one of the leading global suppliers of a broad range of standard, advanced, and smart meters and meter communication systems, including networks and communication modules, software, and services. Kelli and her department work on the SEC filings for Itron as well as technical GAAP research. Hear about Kelli's experience in her own words...

What advice would you give to someone considering Gonzaga's MBA program?

I would definitely encourage them to do it. While completing an MBA does take time and effort, what you gain from the experience is invaluable. From the network you build to your ability to think strategically, a Gonzaga MBA will help you both short and long term. For me, getting my MBA helped me think from different perspectives and move from a tactical mindset into strategic thinking. As an actively involved alumna, my MBA experience has lasted far beyond my time in the classroom.

Why did you choose Gonzaga's MBA program?

I chose Gonzaga's MBA program because of its name and reputation. Gonzaga is so personal in

their approach to their students. After attending an information meeting about the program, I received personal follow up and was able to talk with current students and alumni.

How were you able to tailor your MBA program?

I was still very interested in accounting and incorporating graduate accounting courses into my MBA curriculum. With Gonzaga's flexibility, I was able to take some Master of Accountancy (MAcc) courses as electives. This was very beneficial for me, as none of the other programs in the area have a MAcc program. I was studying for the CPA exam at the time, so taking these courses fit in with my long term career goals.

What did you enjoy about your experience in Gonzaga's MBA programs?

Number one was that it's so personal. From the time you apply to the time you graduate, you are never just a number. Your professors know you by name. Throughout the entire program I was working either part-time or full-time. Even with my complex schedule, professors were always very helpful and flexible to help me succeed in the courses. I also particularly enjoyed the ten week and five week courses. It was helpful to have the semester split up and to be able to pick and choose your elective courses.

What was one of your favorite classes in the program?

My favorite class was an elective course called Creativity and Intuition with Dr. Helgeson. Coming from an accounting mindset and background, this class was really on the other end of the spectrum for me. I wanted to immerse myself in marketing, and this was a great course to help me think outside of the box.

As an alumna, how do you keep involved with Gonzaga's MBA program?

I'm on the Alumni Executive Board, which is a local group of alumni who work with the Graduate School of Business on professional development, networking and curriculum development. Gonzaga offers many great networking events, including the Dean's Business Forum Breakfasts. Even after the program, I continue to build relationships and my network.

For more information about the part-time MBA program, please contact:

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