



PROUD PROFESSIONAL PROFILES

Greetings IAWP members!

Here is our eighth monthly International Association of Workforce Professional (IAWP) **Proud Professional Profile**.

I contacted our active member **Kyla Meredith-Boucher**. She is currently working as a UI Specialist 3 (Intake Agent). She first became a member of IAWP in 2009. **Kyla** has held several IAWP positions such as **IAWP International Conference Organizing Committee, East Subchapter President, State Conference Planning Committee, State Chapter Marketing Chair and State Chapter Vice President**. She has also been a key helper for successful events with the IAWP.

Thank you **Kyla** for all your help you do to make the IAWP a better association. She is an asset to our organization and we appreciate all of our great members and volunteers.

Tell me how you first got involved with IAWP?

- When I first started here, the International Conference was going to be held in Spokane. My background before coming here included event planning, so I thought it would be a really fun way to get involved! I was one of the leads for the Ball & Banquet event at the conference. It was a really fun team of people working on the conference and I got to meet an incredible group of people at the agency by doing this right when I started at ESD!

What do you wish other people knew about IAWP?

- I wish that people understood more of the benefits of being a member and participating in IAWP. Professional organizations are a way to: gain additional knowledge of your career field, network with others throughout your own agency (company) and other professionals from other states and even internationally, get additional training and continuing education that is not always provided by the agency itself and take leadership roles. IAWP provides all of this and the cost to join is SO nominal especially compared to other professional organizations. Participating is good for your career and getting involved looks great on your resume as it shows you are dedicated to your field and continuous growth.

Tell me about some of the people you've met while working on (IAWP)?

- One of the best things about being a member of IAWP is getting to know so many people who work across ESD departments and locations. I've gotten to know amazing staff who work in Shared Work, Collections (ESC), the Commissioner's office, and members of the ELT, Policy, WorkSource offices and more! These connections truly

help me be better at my job, because I get to learn about other departments and what they do which helps me better serve our customers.

The people you get to be friends with across ESD want to help you as well. It's a win for everyone and I love the friendships I've made. I also love getting to spend time with the retirees who come to events in full force. They have so much joy and knowledge of what has happened historically. It's great.

When your friends/family find out that you (volunteer, donate, etc.), what do they say or ask?

- I actually volunteer for several organizations that are important to me. Usually I get asked why I chose that organization or why it is important to me and what I get out of it. With IAWP, I always let them know that it provides opportunities to learn and grow, that there is incredible networking, and that I have made amazing friendships with a diverse group of people that I never would have met otherwise!

What do you do when you aren't working/volunteering?

- When I am not working, we have lots of family time. We play board games and cards (family game night), we play tennis and golf (badly), we spend time with family at the Columbia Gorge in Washington and Hood River, Oregon. I'm a big time crafter and my Mom and I do craft shows with some of our work. My husband and I also volunteer for the parent teacher organizations at our girls' schools.

This past year, my husband and I were 2 of the 4 Show Chairs (producers) for a major fundraiser at Ferris High School called Ham on Regal. It's a parent produced variety show where parents write the script, chose songs, sing, act, dance, direct, choreograph, costume, build and decorate sets and basically do everything to put on this week long show to raise money for the high school. It is pretty incredible.

I am also on the board of a non-profit (501c3) called 2Live2Cure, which helps working-aged cancer fighters with services. It was formed by my younger twin sisters when my sister Katy was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. She found little help for people like her (in the prime of her career, with small children) on how to navigate all the things that come with fighting cancer at 38 years old.

I am incredibly proud of them and my family is my #1!