

2022 Kathleen Simione PUCWB Women in Business Scholarship | Kylie Gethings

For some, finding their passion is a struggle, a long journey. For me, as soon as I began taking classes at Quinnipiac and discovered Computer Information Systems, I found it – the perfect balance between business and technology. As I progressed through my years at Quinnipiac, I was afforded the opportunity to work with Travelers Insurance in both their technology and business analytics departments. This experience shaped me – I explored my likes and dislikes, constantly asked for feedback, and was my own best advocate. But most importantly, I was able to apply the skills I had been learning in the classroom, in a way that impacted both the business and the community.

As I ventured through my first summer as an intern, I grew from a timid shadow in the background of meetings to leading sessions, planning events, and offering my insights in real-world business problems. Being successful in these ventures has been rewarding enough, but also thoroughly enjoying it brings the experience to a new level. In business, there are a wide range of opportunities, but I found my niche in that thin line between communicating the business to the technology side, and vice versa. Being able to understand analytics, how models are made, and then be able to translate that to the business side is invaluable. When I am able to effectively communicate how the data supports a certain business decision, it drives my passion even further. I aspire to grow in a full-time position at Travelers and lead teams to success through understanding, asking the right questions to prompt thinking, and effectively communicate.

The 4+1 Program at Quinnipiac has provided me with a space to grow academically and achieve a master's degree in a short yet effective period of time, without stunting my career. As I wrap up my Master's in Business Analytics, I am able to visualize how valuable this degree and experience will be as I enter the workforce. Not only have I gained advanced business analytics knowledge over the past year, but I have been able to work as a Graduate Assistant in the School of Business at Quinnipiac University. In this role, I have connected with many professors, associate deans, and Dean Raider. I have been able to assist students in planning their courses, offer guidance, and proudly discuss my time at Quinnipiac with potential students and parents. My time at Quinnipiac has shaped me into a well-rounded person, eager to take on new opportunities.

As I enter the workforce, I am preparing myself to wholeheartedly focus on my performance and excel in any position I take on. While being fortunate enough to have secured a position for post-graduation, student loans are on the forefront of my mind, like many students. Receiving this scholarship would not only help to alleviate some of the pressure regarding my student loans but allow me to fully and completely focus on my role at Travelers, rather than being solely focused on the repayment of loans in my first months in industry. I am extremely grateful to be considered for this scholarship and appreciate the opportunity immensely.