

Meet Our Mentees – Brianna Perez

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FWA Baruch College Mentee, Brianna Perez, knows exactly how to inspire a crowd. Last week on Monday, June 17, she did just that when she spoke at our 2019 Awards Ceremony to an audience of over 200 leaders in the financial services community including the New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul. Brianna spoke in-depth about the impact the FWA's Mentoring Program has had on her life. "This program has been one of the greatest experiences I have had in my college career. Not only does the program give you the opportunity to meet professionals and expand your network, but it gives you the opportunity to form relationships with other mentees in the program. Many of them have become lifelong friends," she explained.



Brianna's story doesn't start with the FWA. She grew up in a small family and credits her parents for supporting her along her journey to a successful career. "I am Puerto Rican, Italian, and Croatian. I have one younger brother named David, and he is deaf. My family is my motivation every single day and my parents have supported me with every dream or career aspiration I have ever had. I would be nowhere without them, and for that, I will always be grateful."

Brianna also praises her FWA mentor Mary Greenebaum and Director of the FWA Mentoring Program at Baruch College, Olga Barskaya, for being her biggest supporters. "Olga and my mentor Mary have been there for me through everything. I would not have been able to go through the adversity I have faced these past two years without them. I am eternally grateful for being accepted into this program. Mary has been a big part of my success and she is very supportive. Whenever I had an interview or coffee chat, she would always call beforehand to help me prepare. She would go over the interview questions with me and gave me advice on how to answer some of the questions. She helped me focus on what I was great at, instead of analyzing and picking at every little thing that I wasn't good at. Mary has not only touched my heart, but she has also touched the hearts of so many other mentees and she has been the longest running mentor at Baruch College. I hope to

continue our friendship for a very long time. Olga has also been one of the many highlights. She is there for all of the mentees and works extremely hard to provide us all with a wonderful program. Her hard work and dedication never go unnoticed, and I am thankful that she selected me to be part of this program.”

Earlier this month Brianna was among 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students who earned their degrees from Baruch College at its 2019 Commencement ceremony at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn. Brianna recently accepted a full-time role in wealth management with Morgan Stanley, achieving yet another one of her goals. “I joined the FWA mentoring program because I wanted to be inspired by strong independent women. I wanted people to look up to. I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself. I wanted to meet new people and ask them questions about their rise to success, in hopes that I would be like them someday. I am forever grateful to the organization for giving me so many opportunities and for helping me achieve my goals.” Please join us in recognizing yet another one of our remarkable FWA mentees for their outstanding achievements. Congratulations Brianna!

Interested in Mentoring?

Given how important mentoring is, you could be a key source of knowledge to a young woman seeking guidance with developing her career. To learn more about FWA mentoring and to get involved contact:

(Baruch College) Betsy Werley,
(Seton Hall University) Carol Doyle or Rachel Peddle,
(High School) Beth Dorfman or Mindy Kipness.