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questions

Krystal Bishop

What will your new role at AJAC include?

I like to think of my role as the Apprenticeship Services Coordinator as an Academic Advisor, but with a lot more responsibility and scope. Every day, I get to interact with existing apprentices on a variety of issues – scheduling classes, questions regarding tuition or next steps in their program, eliminating road blocks – as well as support our instructors by assisting with attendance tracking, grade input and more.

If you could choose anyone, who would you pick as your mentor?

If I could choose a mentor, I would go with Rosie Mercado. Rosie is a plus-size model, celebrity makeup artist, fashion designer, television personality, promotes body diversity and positivity, is also a motivational speaker, especially about women abuse, and is now one of the pioneers for the Full Body Photo Project, which encourages women to get comfortable in their own skin. Basically? She does everything! I have always been happiest when I have a lot on my plate, and Rosie embodies that while still fighting for a cause close to both of our hearts.

What is your favorite thing about working in the non-profit industry?

Working in the non-profit industry allows me the ability to make a difference where it is needed every single day. I believe non-profits exist largely as safety nets, as organizations solely devoted to helping those who may have slipped through the cracks of the existing societal structure for whatever reason.

What's one thing about you that would surprise me?

I run the local branch of an international grassroots organization dedicated to improving our communities through self-empowerment and personal responsibility. I teach free self-defense classes (with a personal background in Krav Maga), create safety campaigns, have participated in the Seattle community's Real Life Super Hero (RLSH) movement, pick up used needles, and conduct large-scale homeless outreach events in downtown Seattle.

If we came to your house for dinner, what would you prepare for us?

As a mother of two young boys (six and three-and-a-half) and fiancé to a man who runs an athletic club, we're a protein-heavy house! I make a mean bacon-wrapped meatloaf, and my lasagna isn't anything to laugh at... but I won 2nd Place in the Tillamook Cheese Factory Grilled Cheese Contest with my "Guilty Griller" sandwich; Skillet's bacon jam, provolone and pepperjack cheeses, onions sautéed in Jack Daniels, and potato chips inside a croissant. I accept tips in the form of tens and twenties.