



MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

MARIE BERNOI



As a woman leader in the Federal Government, what is one piece of advice you would give to aspiring women who seek to attain senior leadership positions?

One of my favorite quotes is *“the best way to predict the future is to create it.”* This is the advice I give to anyone striving to attain senior leadership. It is important to take responsibility for your professional growth and development while building a support network to encourage you along the way.

What motivated you to pursue a career in public service?

When I first joined the FBI, my intention was to become a special agent. Along the way, I changed my mind because I enjoyed the challenges of my role as a professional staff employee, and I liked the flexibilities that it offered to change positions. At the forefront of my decision to pursue a career with the FBI is that it has a mission like no other – “Protect the American people and uphold the constitution of the United States.” Being able to serve in this capacity throughout my career continues to be impactful and satisfying. I like knowing what I do everyday matters.

Who has been a significant mentor or role model for you, and why?

My first FBI boss, a Supervisory Special Agent serving in the assistant section chief role, has been a mentor and role model for me from the beginning of my career to this day. We still stay in touch and get together for lunch at least once a year. He encouraged me from day one to not give up, create a plan, and make things happen. I have carried this advice with me throughout my career. My mentor’s willingness to support and encourage me as well as champion my successes is a shining example of a mentor and is something that I work hard to emulate with those around me.

About You

I’ve held various roles at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) throughout my 35+ years of service. I am currently serving in the Senior Executive Service as a Section Chief. I have a strong background in government administration, with a focus on finance, human resources, and training. I am skilled in the security discipline, leadership development, coaching, liaison, and am certified in ethics and compliance. With a master’s degree in Corporate and Organizational Communication, I am passionate about all aspects of communications. My extensive experience at the FBI showcases my ability to excel in a fast-paced and high-pressure environment.

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