CONGRATULATIONS TO KELLI CORNING, RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 DEBRA L. DOOLEY GME PROGRAM COORDINATOR EXCELLENCE AWARD GIVEN BY THE ACGME!

A Day in the Life of a Seasoned Coordinator By Cara Giacomo

The definition of “seasoned” suggests, “having a lot of experience of doing something and therefore, knowing how to do it well.” Many of us are “seasoned” leaders in the world of GME. One special individual who seems to make it look seamless is our very own Kelli Corning!

Since 1989, Kelli’s career has been associated with graduate medical education. She worked her way up through the ranks as an office assistant in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, a program coordinator in Emergency Services and eventually becoming manager of educational training program operations at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. It wasn’t until April, 1999 when Kelli was hired as a program administrator for the Internal Medicine Residency Program at the University of Washington in Seattle. As with everything Kelli does, she puts her heart and soul into her work. Eventually, her hard work paid off and in January, 2013, Kelli Corning became the Associate Director for the University of Washington, Internal Medicine Residency Program where she manages and supervises one of the largest programs in the country. She monitors a $2.75 million annual operating budget, manages a $22 million annual payroll budget, administers payroll for 185 residents, supervises 5.0 FTE staff, hires, trains, develops and evaluates performance expectations and performance, as well as represent her program and program director at local, regional and national meetings.

A graduate of the University of Washington and a Pacific Northwest native, Kelli is a dynamic and engaging leader who fosters collaboration and the building of spirited teams. Although, Kelli is quick to point out that it is easy to run a good program when you are surrounded by great people, she has taken a personal interest in each of the members of her administrative team and has created a fun and supportive environment where every person is valued and expected to contribute. If you were in attendance at the 2014 APDIM PA meeting when Kelli received the PA Service Award, you may remember her acceptance speech where she spoke passionately about the importance of having a seat at the table. She is infamous for proclaiming, “If you want to be taken seriously, then you need to sit at the table. Decisions are made at the table, not around the outside of the room.”

In addition to receiving the APDIM Program Administrators Service Award in 2014, Kelli was awarded the ACGME Graduate Medical Education Program Coordinator Excellence Award for 2019. She has co-authored several peer-reviewed manuscripts and abstracts and is a regular presenter at many local, regional, and national level workshops. When she is not presenting, you will find her in the audience passing around the microphone during question and answer sessions. Kelli brings energy and enthusiasm to every venue. She’s a selfless advocate and creates an atmosphere of trust by empowering strength in others.

When I became a PA in 2006, I met Kelli at my first APDIM meeting in Philadelphia. She was our chair. I observed from the far reaches of the room with awe as she emceed the meeting. She was amazing to watch...so articulate and animated, that you can feel her energy emanating from any place in the room. Kelli’s personality is contagious. No doubt, you will share some great laughs and good food, when in Kelli’s company. She makes everyone feel welcome.

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laugh out loud, and light me up like a Christmas tree” as quoted by Kelli. When she is not at work, Kelli describes her life as blessed. Both she and Eric, her husband of 23 years, share the center of their lives with daughter, Mackenzie. Together, they have a very close knit bio-family and an extended accumulated family of college roommates, friends and friends of friends from various relationships throughout the years. Her dad drives up from Tacoma to have lunch with her several times during the year, they attend the Northwest flower and Garden Show and make grand plans for their yards! Kelli loves to travel, and she and Eric are blessed with people who are willing to explore the world with them. At the time of this writing, Kelli was on her way to Chicago, then off to Malta to join Mackenzie on her spring break. Over the last several years, she has spent time in Vienna, Bavaria, Italy, Greece, Kenya and Tanzania on safari. She and Eric love to road trip. Some of those trips include Sun Valley, Idaho on their way to Yellowstone National Park, the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California as well as Disneyland.

Among some of the other “loves” that Kelli has are taking classes and learning new things. Just recently, she discovered that King Arthur Flour has a baking school about an hour north of her home, in Burlington, WA. She has learned to make all sorts of amazing treats including croissants, challah, pie and ciabatta, and plans to take a British Dessert course in the spring. She also loves to read, watch Rom-Coms, sip and paint, work with glass, do the NY Times crossword puzzle, eat good food, get dirty in her garden, laugh at corny jokes or just spend a quiet day at home.

Those who know Kelli will quickly tell you and often comment that you will hear her laugh before you see her. She is full of energy, quick to smile, gives great hugs and makes each person she encounters feel important. Kelli Corning...our seasoned PA!

Upcoming Events

IM ITE: August 22-September 11, 2019
https://www.acponline.org/featured-products/medical-educator-resources/im-ite

2019 APDIM Fall Meeting: October 17-19, 2019
Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel
Denver, CO

AAIM Week 2020: April 19-22, 2020
Tampa Convention Center
Tampa, FL