

KATE DEVEY, CPA-PERMIAN BASIN

Kate Devey is a tax manager at Johnson, Miller & Co., CPAs in Midland. She is an active member of TXCPA Permian Basin, currently serving as chapter vice president, and was named a TXCPA 2019 Rising Star. We recently caught up with her to learn more about her background and community involvement.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in Midland, Texas.

Tell us about your family.

My husband and I have seven fur-babies: five dogs and two cats. We love border collies and any other rescue dog. I also love to hang out with and spoil my nephew.

Why was it so important to you to get your CPA license?

I believe in finishing goals when you start them. Earning my CPA license was never optional and was not only the most important goal I've had in my life, but also the most rewarding. The value my CPA license added to my career opportunities and professional fulfillment are immeasurable.

Tell us about a project or accomplishment that you consider to be very significant in your career.

One of my greatest accomplishments has been through mentoring and training staff members at our firm. Helping new accountants as they make huge strides both professionally and personally in their first few years is rewarding. Personal experience has allowed me to help steer new staff members clear of potential pitfalls and towards their long-term goals, whatever those may be. Watching them have lightbulb moments is one of the best parts of what I do.

I was also lucky enough to participate in the Generations Program put on by the Nonprofit Management Center in Midland. Generations is a select training program for future board members that helps provide a pipeline of volunteers for the local nonprofit sector. This program



gave me the building blocks to effectively serve Mission Center Adult Day Service as a director and officer. My board service has not only given me personal fulfillment, but it has helped me continue my professional growth.

Who has been the biggest influence on your life and/or career and why?

My hero will always be my mom's dad. He was my best buddy growing up. His stories were larger than life; they painted vivid pictures of Texas before and during the Depression, the University of Texas campus, World War II and the American glory days that followed. He was always full

of life; he never met a stranger and would always go out of his way to help someone in need. He showed his love for his family and his wife every day. He never let anything go to waste. His life was an example that I will always try to live up to.

You're active with your TXCPA chapter and in your community, serving on several boards in the area. Why is involvement in your chapter and local community so important to you?

As CPAs, we are blessed with many advantages. It is our responsibility to give back to our communities in any way that our passions guide us or that our skill set can do the greatest good. We also have a duty to our profession to further the mission of TXCPA so that our profession can continue to prosper in perpetuity. Being actively involved with TXCPA and my community is a duty that will last long after my professional career.

What is your favorite vacation destination? Any upcoming travel plans?

I like to spend time in the mountains or any place that is cooler than Texas during the summer months. I plan on spending quality time with my family and catching a couple of concerts this summer.