

TUTOR TALKS



EQ NEWS

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By Stefanie Sadocha

Shaping the Future with Abby Marry

Meet Abby! Abby is a Junior at Michigan State University studying Finance and Investment Real Estate. In this issue of Tutor Talks, Stefanie Sadocha got to know Abby and how being an Equiduct volunteer has impacted her college experience so far. Abby is an exemplar role model for our student mentees, and we are grateful for her hard work!



SS: Explain your role with Equiduct

AM: “I just started this semester with Equiduct. I currently do tutoring, I am involved with the Junior Achievement program, and I also do recruitment.”

What is your favorite part about connecting with the kids?

“My favorite part is definitely watching them inspire each other. It is really cool how when one of the students comes over for help, it is like a domino effect. More and more

students will start to come over and see what it is all about. They start motivating each other to work on homework, and be a better student.”

“All it takes is one student for them to all want to work harder.”

What is a goal you have for Equiduct that you would like to see accomplished in the future?

“I want more people to be involved with the Junior Achievement (JA) aspect. It is a super cool organization that we are partnered with, and they have a need for college students. A lot of the kids look up to college aged students because we are close enough in age to be relatable but also old enough to do things they may aspire to do in the future. A lot of them may think what we do is unattainable, and our job is to give them the resources to make it an achievable goal. When I talk to them about financial aspects, like spending and saving, they become really engaged in the conversation because it will help them further their future.”

What is the most important subject to work on with the students, in your opinion?

“I always like to start by asking them what their favorite subject is. A lot of the time they are tired and not super excited to work on homework since they were just in class all day. If you work on something they enjoy, they get excited about it and start to build interests and passions. I love to bridge their future into the topics they are excited about because it makes them feel successful, and get excited about what they can do in the future. I like to ask them what they want to do in their future, and educate them about possible career paths that have to do with the subject they enjoy.”

How has Equiduct shaped your college experience?

“It has really opened my eyes to the impact that I can make personally. I think we all underestimate ourselves a little bit on what we can really accomplish, and make a difference in. Kids are super absorbent to what you say and do.”

“We are role models to the kids, even if you do not think you are.”

What would you tell other MSU students who may want to get involved?

“I think if MSU students would go and experience it for themselves, their eyes would totally open to how much of an impact they can make to the mentees lives. It is also a great way to make connections with other MSU students that you probably would have never met elsewhere; it brings the community together.”

Why is it important to you to get involved with the greater MSU community?

“It is so easy to get bottled into our major, or career paths and spend our time with students who have similar paths which is great, but it also limits the community you develop on campus. You might miss out on a huge student body that you can connect with because everyone at MSU has so much to offer because they have different backgrounds. Likewise, the Lansing students have so much to offer and also come from different walks of life.”

“It is so important to be with fellow peers to learn and grow together in an enriching environment, like Equiduct.”

Do you have past volunteer experience that has inspired you to continue your volunteer work in college?

“I have horses and have always loved incorporating them into volunteer work. Kids were almost always involved in this, whether it was teaching lessons or bringing people to the farm. I love volunteering with kids because everything is always super impactful, even in a short amount of time. Their experiences will be a huge memory for them and that has always inspired me to do more. Equiduct stuck out to me because I wanted to be out there in the community making a difference.”

What do you want to do in the future?

“I want to work in commercial investment real estate. I think I will find a way to incorporate nonprofit work into that in the future, as well. Real estate has such an impact on the community and as I get more stable in my future community, I would love to use my position to help people establish businesses for a greater good. Specifically, I would love to help get kids a space to thrive and have programs like Equiduct. So, I guess in the future I would say I want to make it attainable to find a safe space for organizations to develop and keep helping the community.”

If I gave you \$1 million to start a nonprofit, what would it be?

“I would love to combine my passion for horses with kids and education. This could mean going on some more elaborate fieldtrips than they would typically go on. These experiences were a really important part of my childhood, and a lot of schools do not have

the funds for these opportunities. Learning through experience is so important, and I would love to give kids that opportunity.”

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We can help match your academic and personal interests with the right Equiduct volunteer activity.

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