

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



CRISTAL IVETTE PEREZ-RODRIGUEZ

Class of 2012

After graduating from William Penn Senior High School, Ms. Perez-Rodriguez attended York College and graduated with a degree in psychology. She has since earned a master's degree and currently leads the human resources department of a private equity venture capital company. Now 23, she lives in York City.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR?

I believe that could be graduating from high school. I am a first-generation graduate in all aspects: high school, undergrad, and master's. Graduating from high school was the stepping stone to the rest of my future. Shortly after, my siblings followed too.

WHO WAS YOUR FAVORITE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, AND WHY?

I could name many, but one that always stands out is Mr. Kevin Crawmer. Though I was never "his" student, he directed the marching band and was one of the most influential people in my life. His slogans, conversations, advice, and more still resonate with me.

WHAT LESSONS DID YOU LEARN IN SCHOOL THAT STILL RESONATE IN YOUR LIFE?

I learned perspective, empathy and determination. I learned to understand what my peers were going through, to put myself in their shoes and those of others. I learned to set goals, drive them and meet them. Those small lessons have served big time in college, but also in both my personal and professional life.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS?

Never giving up, accepting failure and knowing that failing fast is the best way to grow, adapt and learn.



WHY ARE YOU PROUD TO BE A BEARCAT?

The lessons and influences I had as a Bearcat were intangible. No amount of money or textbooks can teach me that, nor buy it. I'm proud because we are a community that wants to see our students thrive and steps up to the plate when needed.