

GABRIELLA STURGILL
FINANCIAL ANALYST | FINANCIAL FITNESS

OVERVIEW

Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, I am happy to call Seattle my home. With my B.A. in Finance from the University of Portland, I have combined my passion for finance along with a determination to help eliminate gender barriers I face as a female in a male dominated industry. Having been awarded the job of Miss Seattle, I have used this position to continue spreading financial education. As Miss Washington I will utilize my public speaking skills, marketing experience, and financial expertise alongside the brand and reach of Miss Washington to share my message of financial literacy, while simultaneously cultivating and fostering relationships with sponsors, growing the number of candidates at a local level, making a meaningful impact in lives of students through involvement with ESD 113, and much more. Overall, I want to define the role of Miss Washington as a scholar, advocate, and career-woman.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance | University of Portland | *Graduated December 2016*

- Completed bachelors in 2.5 years, graduating on the Dean's List
- Recipient of University of Portland's Arthur A. Schulte, Jr. Scholarship & the Dominic A. Dulcich Endowed Scholarship
- Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity member
- Division One Cheerleader

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Certifications | Required for buying and/or selling securities | *Obtained 2017*

- General Securities Representative (Series 7)
- Combined Securities Agent/Investment Representative (Series 66)

CAREER AMBITION

Career Ambition – Managing Director of Finance for a global consulting firm

Miss Washington's Impact on Career Ambition – As Miss Washington I will have the opportunity to meet many people from diverse backgrounds, sharpen and foster relationships with sponsors new and old, improve my ability to deliver complex financial topics in a clear and digestible way, come up with creative ways to engage my community, and publicly speak in many situations. Additionally, it will award me with scholarships to help me obtain my MBA, furthering my skills to reach the next level in my career. Fulfilling this role for a year will have a profound impact on my career trajectory, and in setting the stage to be a future leader.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- **Accenture** | Financial Analyst – Corporate Development & Transaction Services Analyst | *2019 – Present*
- **Uber (Corporate)** | Product Launch & Densification – Uber Eats | *2018 – 2019*
- **Pacific Capital** | Comprehensive Financial Adviser – Specializing in planning for women and minority groups | *2017 – 2018*
- **Publics Blue 449** | Media Intern – Social media & TV ad campaigns for top brands | *2016 – 2017*
- **Univ. of Portland, Development Office** | TOP Caller – Telephone fundraising procurement | *2014 – 2016*

SOCIAL IMPACT INITIATIVE

Financial Fitness – Spreading Financial Literacy

Experience – Finance major, worked as a Financial Advisor, a keynote speaker giving financial literacy seminars at some of our nation's top companies, currently working as a Financial Analyst at one of the world's largest consulting firms.

Marketing "Financial Fitness" while enhancing the MWSO brand – "Financial Fitness" is deeply engrained in what the Miss America Organization brand stands for as it touches 3 of the main pillars: service, scholarship, and success. It is all about making an impact through spreading financial education to empower our fellow community members to achieve future success. Throughout my year as Miss Washington, I plan to use my financial expertise, marketing experience, and public speaking skills coupled with the recognition of the Miss America Organization brand to connect with as many people as possible through many different mediums. Because "Financial Fitness" and the MAO brands align so seamlessly, I will be able to simultaneously spread financial education while promoting the values and message of the Miss America Organization, which will ultimately perpetuate and enhance the overall brand.

SERVICE & RELATED EXPERIENCES

- **Seattle's Union Gospel Mission** | Night Search and Rescue team, supporting individuals in Seattle experiencing homelessness
- **Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, Calcutta, India** | Spent two summers working with victims of sexual assault
- **Exceptional Families Network** | Former board member helping provide resources to families with disabled children
- **Camp Stand by Me & Camp Promise West** | Camp counselor for disabled youth

INTERESTING FACTS

Travel – I love to travel, and my goal is to see all 7 continents. I have spent the night on a boat in Halong Bay, Vietnam, backpacked the Himalayas, night snorkeled with Manta Rays, and in 2019 visited Japan, Vietnam, India (for a 3rd time), England and Ireland.

Food – I love anything Thai, Chinese, or Indian, and I feel more comfortable eating with chopsticks than a fork.

Hobbies – I love to ski, backpack, and practice yoga daily.

Talent – I have been dancing since the age of 2 and will be performing a musical theater dance to my favorite musical number, "Spanish Rose".

Name: Gabriella Sturgill

Title: Seattle

Financial Fitness- Spreading Financial Literacy

Two-thirds of American adults cannot pass a basic financial literacy test. This accentuates the gap we have in the U.S. education system around financial education. With our average student debt growing to a record collective \$1.7 trillion in 2021, and additional negative financial impacts COVID-19 has had on our economy it is more imperative than ever that we are financially literate. No matter what career or education you choose, financial decisions are made daily and everyone deals with money. It is so basic, and so essential. I intend to use my background and expertise in the financial field, coupled with the prestige of the Miss America organization, to begin closing this gap.

Growing up, my dad struggled with alcoholism, and at times his sickness caused my parents to struggle to financially support our family of 7. At a young age I saw the importance of being fiscally responsible and financially independent, inspiring me to study finance. Even with that upbringing and education, there are still so many things I wish I knew when I was transitioning into adulthood. For example: what type of student loans to get, what my payments would be after graduation, how to build credit, or how to properly use credit cards. In any given year, we make numerous financial decisions that greatly impact our daily lives.

I have had the honor of being able to use my education to host financial literacy seminars at some of our nation's top companies like Amazon, Expedia, Nordstrom, and Uber. Through these presentations, I have become aware of just how far reaching this lack of knowledge is. My goal is to use the influence and access of the Miss America Organization combined with my financial background to take addressing this issue to the next level.

It is my belief that the best way to make a lasting impact is by teaching our youth the basics of financial literacy to ensure a strong foundation for their future success in whatever path they choose. The most effective place to start is by reaching those in transitional periods of life, like heading towards high school graduation. I intend to use the recognition of the Miss America Organization to help me reach students and present my Financial Fitness seminars. I'd like to cover 4 basic topics: 1. The cost of college- talking about student loans from interest rates to payment plans and other options to fund your education. 2. Savings and investing- the power of compound interest and starting early. 3. How to build credit, and credit card basics. 4. Financial tools- learning about simple financial strategies and options like budgeting basics, 401ks, and IRAs.

The Miss America Organization's mission statement is, "Prepare Great Women for the World. Prepare the World for Great Women." A primary way they do this is by being the largest scholarship provider for women in the world. My social impact initiative aligns perfectly with the Miss America brand as it is centered around education and empowerment. "Financial Fitness" will give students the tools they need to provide a strong foundation for success when entering higher education, the workforce, and beyond. It would be advantageous for the organization to embrace my social impact initiative because this collaboration perpetuates their brand in everything it stands for. As a titleholder myself, I can showcase what being a product of their organization looks like, as much of my education was funded through the scholarships I have received from being a participant. In turn, it is the education and scholarships that have given me the ability to educate and promote financial literacy in our communities.

Overall, I have a message of responsibility to share when it comes to basic financial literacy. This is such an important topic which affects everyone, from a young child getting their first allowance to our seniors well into their retirement. We use financial skills daily, however, our education system has fallen short at providing such skills. This is a travesty because financial insecurity can lead to a myriad of problems including homelessness, food insecurity, under education, relationship troubles, and much more. I am so blessed that I have been able to use my education to spread financial literacy, however I want to dig deeper and do my part in closing the gap by giving students the foundation they need. Having the title of Miss Washington would help me to do just that while also perpetuating the Miss America brand.

Gabriella Sturgill 04/27/2021

Signature/ Date