



Profile

MARCELL BRUSKI

Photos courtesy Marcell Bruski



WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE?

I wanted to go to Billings for college, I liked the city and had family that lived here. I toured MSUB and RMC. I instantly fell in love with Rocky, the beautiful campus, the smaller class sizes, and their great business program. Once I stepped on campus for the tour, I knew instantly that this is where I would go.

WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST WHILE YOU WERE AT ROCKY? HOW DID THEY INFLUENCE YOU?

A few professors pop to my mind when I think about the answer to this question. Nick Plunkey, Erin Reser, and Matt O’Gara. The most influential for me was James Smith, my advisor and business professor. He was influential from day one, he provided guidance in my education and mentorship in my later years towards an internship and job opportunities. His classes were some of my favorites because they felt like seminar classes. And as you get into your junior and senior year those should be some of your favorite, most challenging courses that help you know that you selected the right major. To this day, he still is a professor I connect with at least once a semester.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY FROM YOUR TIME AS A STUDENT AT ROCKY?

Our 2015 trip to Dublin, Ireland. I was in a special business course in the spring of 2015 that was set to visit Dublin, Ireland and London, England in May. It was a small class of about 14 students that researched industries and businesses in each city. We then did what we could to schedule visits to these organizations and learn about international business. It was an educational experience of a lifetime. During this trip one of my classmates and I became instant best friends. A great lifelong friendship all because of this school trip.

HOMETOWN:

Ekalaka, Montana

GRADUATION YEAR:

2017

MAJOR:

Business Administration

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Marketing & Outreach Program Manager, Big Sky Economic Development

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Rocky Mountain College empowers you to push past intellectual and personal boundaries.

—MARCELL BRUSKI

Class of 2017

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WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU LEARNED WHILE ATTENDING ROCKY?

How to think critically. As a student, it's not always fun or motivating to take classes that don't pertain to your major, but they give you a look into other majors and give you a wide lens to look through when you go about your life.

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER PATH.

I grew up in a small town in eastern Montana, Ekalaka, graduating with a class of nine. Most people are shocked by this, unless they are also from a small town. Small towns have advantages that bigger schools don't. Everyone is involved. I had the opportunity to be a high school athlete in three sports and travel across the nation for the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America organization. In addition, I participated in student government, the national honor society, and other clubs. During my early time at Rocky, I was going to double major in Political Science and Business. I ended up changing this my junior year and only majoring in business, adding a minor in communication. As a business student at RMC, you need to complete an internship. I was encouraged by my advisor (James Smith), to find one that wasn't at my current place of work. I ended up getting an internship at the Billings Chamber of Commerce. James's advice, looking back, was an essential piece to beginning my career. For that, I will be forever grateful.

I liked working at the Chamber and got great experience and exposure to the Business and Young Professional community of Billings. They liked me, too, and in the fall of my senior year, when it was time to return to school, I continued working part time as an event assistant with them (and Visit Billings). When nearing graduation, they asked me "what's next?" I didn't know and hoped they would make a position for me. I was lucky enough that they did. I continued working at the Chamber for more than a year before making my next move. In September 2018, I began working at Big Sky Economic Development as their Outreach Project Manager. In June of 2019, I was promoted to the Marketing and Outreach Program Manager. I now oversee the marketing and advertising for Big Sky Economic Development and their eight different programs.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT?

The relationships I have built thus far in my career are my greatest achievement. I was able to develop these relationships through my work at The Billings Chamber and Big Sky Economic Development, in addition to my involvement in the Philanthropic Educational Organization women's chapter, Billings NextGEN, 25 Under 25 by Forward MT, Billings Depot Board Member, Montana Young Professional Summit Board, Big Sky State Games, and others. Being only 24, I feel blessed to have learned early on in my life the value of relationships and being part of a community.

IN WHAT WAYS DID YOUR EDUCATION AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER?

Rocky teaches students how to think critically, and I believe this skill can be applied anywhere. Rocky empowers you to push past intellectual and personal boundaries, to think differently, and from different viewpoints. Rocky pushes you to achieve excellence, surrounds you with students from a variety of backgrounds from across the world, and gives you a community you are proud to be part of.