

MICHELLE ANDERSON

SEES THE BIG PICTURE

Michelle Anderson, Corporate Learning Leader at Utica National, knew her passion in life was helping people reach their full potential.

As Corporate Learning Leader, Michelle Anderson partners with different areas of her company to help people discover their true learning need, and then works to come up with a practical solution to help fill that gap. She has the ability to take a step back, look at the bigger picture and make sure that the solution is not creating a problem somewhere else. Michelle believes that, sometimes, if you want to see change, the solution is deeper than one training, job aide or course.

Michelle enjoys partnering with her peers and finding out about the issues they are trying to solve. “I really get to work with everyone and it allows a better understanding of how everything works together,” says Michelle. “You have to find something fun or enjoyable or rewarding in what you do and if you can’t then you might not be in the right job.”

Steve Guzski, Executive VP of Human Resources at Utica National Insurance Group, agrees that Michelle excels at facilitating change, “One of Michelle’s greatest strengths, which she gained through training while here at Utica National, is her ability to focus on and calculate the desired change in business results as the ultimate measure of the success of her and her team’s curriculum design work. She’ll be one of the first to tell you that design, delivery and learner engagement are only one-half of the mission – the critical reminder is ‘how did we change behaviors and measurably impact the business for the better?’”



*Michelle Anderson
Corporate Learning Leader
at Utica National*

Like most successful people, Michelle has had great leaders and mentors every step of the way and each of them has taught her a different lesson along her path. One crucial element to her success was that all of these leaders allowed her the freedom to learn from her mistakes. One other piece of the puzzle is that Michelle is continually seeking new information and trying to learn new things. Without the drive for new knowledge, she wouldn’t be where she is today.

On the personal level, Michelle is a busy mom of two active children, “I have two boys in sports so I don’t have time for hobbies, un-

less taxiing them to and from practice counts as a hobby!” she says. Fortunately, even with her busy schedule, she is still able to find some time to unwind and relax. Like a true Minnesotan, Michelle heads “up north” on the weekends to the cabin with her family.

As for her future plans, Michelle says she doesn’t know what the future holds, but she does know that she will always continue to help other people learn and grow. She enjoys seeing other people succeed by helping them reach that “aha” moment and gain more confidence. When asked for advice for other people in the industry, Michelle said, “You have to make time, even if it’s only 5 minutes, to learn something new every day.” She explains, “It’s the only way to keep up with how quickly things are changing and growing.” This sentiment is expressed through one of Michelle’s favorite life quotes, “Never Stop Learning, Because Life Never Stops Teaching.” ■