



SHAMEKA VOLKERS

FEBRUARY'S SUCCESS STORY


RELAUNCH STATS

Length of Career Break  2 years


Nature of Career Break  Child care

Time to Relaunch  2 years


CAREER TRAJECTORY

 Pre-Break Employer and Job Title

JP Morgan Chase
Assistant Vice President

 Employer and Job Title at Point of Relaunch

Moody's Analytics
Intern

 Current Employer and Job Title

Moody's Analytics
Assistant Director

ABOUT

At Moody's I work on the onboarding team in the Enterprise Risk Solutions group. I work mostly with banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions. I help these companies to manage and mitigate credit risks by onboarding them to Moody's credit models. The models measure the chance loans will default and predict the level of loss if default happens for commercial and industrial and commercial real estate loans.

When I started out as a Re-Ignite Intern I had to prove that I could handle the workload and each time I did good work I was rewarded with more complex duties. Once I was hired full time, I served in a support role on projects. In 2020 I was running multiple projects on my own and successfully closed onboarding projects independently.

WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND TO BE MOST HELPFUL IN YOUR RELAUNCH JOURNEY?

Definitely the mentorship program that was available to me through Moody's. The people who come into the program are mentored by those who have already been through it, so there is always someone to talk to or to get together with. Beyond that, having the senior leadership support the program was huge because it demonstrated that it was not just about lip service. The Moody's Executive Leadership Team ("ELT") really support the program and knowing that senior leadership had our backs and that they were really invested in the program was key. I remember when Mark Almedia, who at the time was President of Moody's Analytics not only took the time to come speak with those of us in the program, when he got there, he knew every single person's name. Mike West Moody's Investor Services, Robert Fauber, the current CEO, and Stephen Tulenko are supporters of the Re-Ignite program. Also, my manager actually cares about my professional development and gives me stretch assignments and this is a huge help.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF ACCOMPLISHING DURING YOUR RETURN TO WORK EXPERIENCE?

I'm very proud of coming into Moody's and learning the business, but being able to run these complex projects on my own makes me feel proud. I originally wasn't going to apply to the job because I thought "I don't know the Moody's Analytics business." But then I just made up my mind to apply and talk to the recruiters and reasoned that if my skills are not what they're looking for and it's not a match, then I won't get the job, but if it is, I might meet people that value me, my skills and will want to work with me. I'm proud of not giving up and not devaluing myself, or my skills or what I can do. And I'm proud of learning as I go and being determined to say, "okay, if there's something I don't know - it's figureoutable - I can learn it!"

WHAT ARE THE MOST TRANSFERRABLE SKILLS YOU GAINED DURING YOUR CAREER BREAK?

I've learned to be resourceful and how to be determined. For example, my team relies on me to successfully deliver projects to sophisticated project. My team also depends on me for polishing up PowerPoints, and that is actually something I learned on my own. I was always curious about PowerPoint and during my time off, I thought, "Oh, you know what? Let me try to play around with PowerPoint." Now, my PowerPoint skills have become a huge asset for my team and I've become one of the "go-to" people for PowerPoint decks that need to get polished.

To read Shameka's full success story, visit [The iRelaunch Blog](#).