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How did you get started with dormakaba?

My journey with dormakaba commenced when I received a call from our HR department, who had viewed my CV online. After a successful conversation, I confirmed my interest in job opportunities. In preparation to the interview, I researched the company and its various products and solutions in access control, security, and related fields. Armed with relevant experience and qualifications, with a good understanding of security principles and technologies, and the correct attitude I was successfully selected and thus my journey with Dk started.

What motivated you to choose a career in security?

When I looked at the role at dormakaba, I realized that my skills and experience were a perfect fit. It was important for me to choose a career that aligned with my strengths because I knew it would increase my chances of success and fulfilment. I'm talking about skills like communication, problem-solving, and conflict resolution.

Another big factor for me was the opportunity to make a real difference. I believe that at dormakaba, I can contribute to creating safer environments and positively impacting the communities they serve.

Plus, as a mom of two, the hybrid work schedule was a huge draw. It not only allows for a better work-life balance but also signifies the trust bestowed upon me by my employer.

And of course, career opportunities were a big consideration. dormakaba offers a variety of career paths and chances for advancement, which is appealing to anyone looking to grow professionally.

Can you share a significant accomplishment or project you've worked on in your career?

After graduating from University, I began my career in the ship repair industry. It was quite a male-dominated environment, to say the least. Armed with my positive attitude, confidence, and a sharp eye for detail, I found myself drafting quotes in the Marketing office.

Within three months, I earned a promotion to ship repair dispatcher, responsible for coordinating repair works on a Panamanian ship that had suffered significant damage from colliding with an atoll, nearly sinking.

Through this experience, I quickly learned that regardless of the industry, there are certain universal principles where women can truly shine: supporting each other, exuding confidence, and being assertive. Confidence is crucial in any industry, so believe in yourself and advocate for your worth. Don't hesitate to voice your opinions, share your insights, and tackle challenges head-on.

Are there any mentors or role models who have influenced your career?

Believe it or not, my first role model was my Maths teacher during secondary school! He had a deep passion for Mathematics and inspired me to approach learning with enthusiasm. He demonstrated strong problem-solving skills, which I admired and sought to emulate in my own life.

Overall, my maths teacher was my role model because of his dedication to education, his ability to inspire and support students, and his impact on my academic and personal development.

What advice would you give to other women aspiring to enter the security industry?

For women aspiring to enter the security industry, here is some advice:

Start with discovering your interests and strengths to pinpoint the areas that best match your career objectives.

Then build your skills through education, training programs, and hands-on experience. Think about acquiring certifications or specialized training to improve your qualifications and attractiveness in the industry.

It's important to connect with subject experts in your field for guidance and mentorship. Their perspectives and experiences offer valuable guidance and assistance as you chart your career journey.

Attend industry events and engage with online communities to expand your network and connect with professionals in your work field.

Confidence is key in any industry, so believe in your abilities and advocate for yourself. Don't be afraid to speak up, share your ideas, and take on challenges. Assertiveness and resilience are essential qualities for success in this, and any field.

Recognize the value of diversity in the industry and the unique perspectives that each individual brings to the table. Embrace your identity and experiences as strengths and look for companies that value diversity and inclusion.

Be a good team member: collaborate, share resources, and celebrate each other's successes.

How do you balance work and personal life in such a demanding industry?

One key lesson I've learned is that maintaining a balance between work and personal life takes deliberate effort and effective time management. Here are some strategies I've found helpful:

Firstly, setting boundaries is crucial. My mum always advised me not to bring work home, emphasizing the importance of separating professional and personal time. This meant establishing specific work hours and resisting the urge to constantly check emails or take work calls during personal time.

Identifying priorities both at work and in my personal life was essential. I focused on completing high-priority tasks first and made time for important personal activities like family time and hobbies.

When feeling overwhelmed by tasks, I found it beneficial to write everything down and create a to-do list. Utilizing various tools available for efficient task management also helped streamline my workload.

Delegating tasks, both at work and at home, allowed me to concentrate on impactful activities and reduce feelings of being overwhelmed.

During my downtime, I often discussed with female colleagues the hierarchy between being a woman, a mother, and an employee/employer. It was enlightening to realise the importance of prioritizing self-care activities first to recharge and rejuvenate, thus enabling me to better fulfil my roles as a mother and professional.

Initially, I viewed seeking support as a weakness, but I learned the hard way that it's essential to communicate openly with employers, colleagues, and family members about workload and commitments. Seeking support from my network, whether for childcare, household tasks, or emotional support, proved invaluable.

In any industry, achieving work-life balance may require some trial and error. By implementing these strategies and finding a balance that suits you, you can enjoy a rewarding career while nurturing your personal life.

Are there any specific initiatives or programs you're involved in to promote diversity and inclusion in the security industry/ at dormakaba?

My journey with dormakaba only started a couple of months ago. So far, I have had the opportunity to participate in the diversity and inclusion training program offered through our specialized learning platform. I believe that learning about diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences creates empathy and respect among individuals and it is essential for creating a fair and equitable environment where everyone feels valued and included. A such, I am confident that I will soon find a program to be involved in to promote diversity and inclusion towards innovation and success.